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SEPTEMBER 1999
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September 1999

The new season promises to be the longest, if not the best, that Europe has ever witnessed. Some leagues have already started, but we've delayed our preview to bring you the facts about the new campaign rather than tell you what you already knew about last season. For David Beckham (a contender, behind the clear favourite Rivaldo, for the European Footballer of the Year award) it may not end until the Final of Euro 2000 on July 2.

We've made a few changes for the new season, the main innovation being an expanded 16-page stats section in the centre of the magazine. We've raised the cover price (inevitable, I'm afraid) but World Soccer is now bigger (84 pages) than ever.

You'll notice that we've included the annual fixtures guide as part of World Service. The influence of television on fixture lists is now so strong that last year's booklet was out of date almost as soon as it was published. So now we will be printing monthly updates in World Service to keep you informed of the TV-enforced changes through the season.

As ever, please let me know what you think. **Gavin Hamilton, Editor** (gavin_hamilton@ipc.co.uk)

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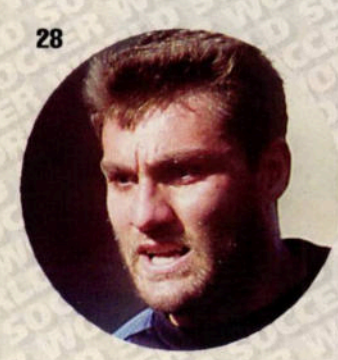

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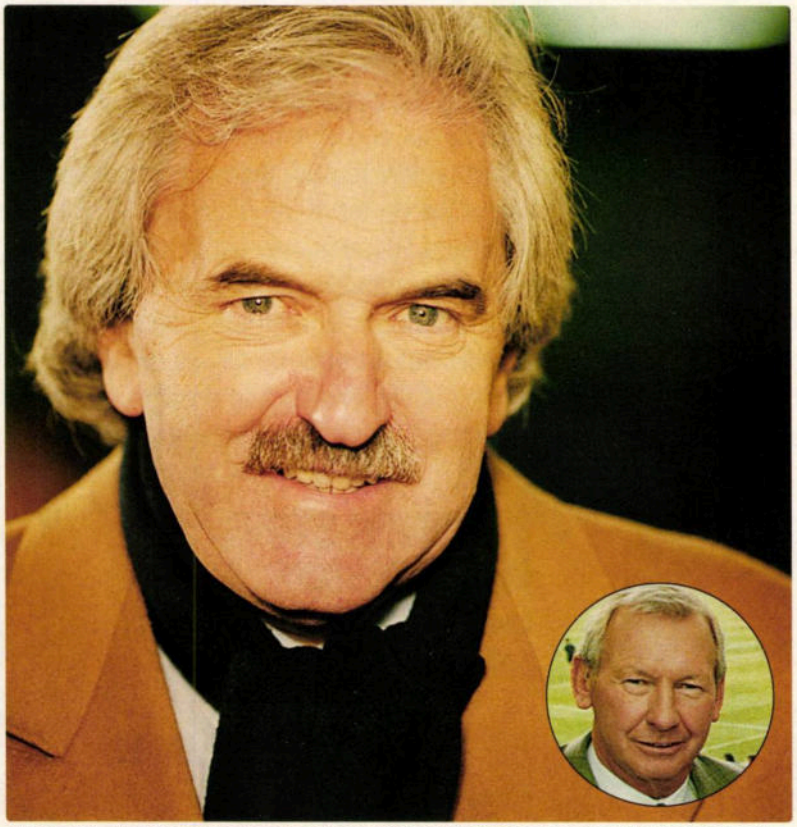
Keir Radnedge
Executive Editor
COMMENTARY

Des is just the start for ITV



Taking over...ITV's Champions League coverage will be fronted by Des Lynam (and Bob Wilson, inset)

WHETHER or not a television 'face' named Des Lynam prefers to chat into camera for BBC or ITV may not be a matter of great moment to the wide world of football. But exclusive coverage of the World Cup...that's another matter, and one not a million miles removed from the poaching of a presenter.

Lynam's languid manner will be in full-frontal international evidence as he introduces ITV's mainstream coverage of the UEFA Champions League this season. But that could be just a preview to the main event in 2002.

Lynam will enjoy himself with the extended, expanded Champions League. Just as Bob Wilson, the main anchorman until now, will be consoled by a new contract. But the big prize for ITV and Lynam is not the Champions League but the World Cup – not shared with those paupers at the BBC, as it has been in the past, but exclusive. Only on ITV.

How? It's easy – thanks to the political and commercial manoevrings three years ago of then FIFA president Joao Havelange and his secretary and successor Sepp Blatter.

One of the major concerns raised by UEFA president Lennart Johansson, when he began his ultimately unsuccessful assault on the FIFA leadership, was World Cup television rights. Johansson, empowered by UEFA's discovery that the Champions League was a licence to print money, complained that Havelange had seriously undervalued World Cup TV rights.

Havelange (and Blatter) responded by springing on a surprised FIFA executive a multi-billion-dollar deal with the Kirch group for the 2002 and 2006 tournaments. The twist to the tale was that Kirch would be able to recoup its money – and make a profit – only by selling a significant chunk of the World Cup to the pay-TV market (satellite and cable).

FIFA, much to Kirch's irritation, claims to have maintained a right to veto any TV deal that shuts out 'free' terrestrial coverage. But the ultimate compromise is that the front-runners in the bidding process will be TV companies that can offer a mixed coverage, i.e. offer a 'free' channel for the key matches (such as own nation games, the Opening Match and the Final) while diverting the rest of the coverage to a pay-TV partner (though NOT pay-per-view. That has no place in the World Cup equation...yet).

In the cosy old days, European rights to the World Cup were sold directly and jointly through the European Broadcasting Union, the 'club' consisting of all the region's state and major national broadcasters. It was an oddity that Britain had two EBU members but that was why, in World Cup days past, BBC and ITV both had rights to transmit matches and, generally, shared coverage out sensibly between them.

No more. The financial reality of the Kirch deal means that the EBU has been sidelined, at least as far as western Europe, with its rich and powerful independent TV stations, is concerned.

So who will be bidding to show Britain the 2002 finals? Sky will surely want to be there for the first time, but it will need to get into bed with a terrestrial partner (BBC or Channels 4 or 5). Hardly ideal. ITV, on the other hand, can offer a one-stop package. Owners Granada and Carlton have all the financial resources to top any Sky bid, PLUS the advantage of controlling both the terrestrial broadcaster (ITV) and its pay-TV partner (ONdigital).

Indeed, it would be a major surprise if, in those circumstances, ITV does not win exclusive World Cup rights for itself and ONdigital. "The World Cup – exclusive on ITV!" Can you imagine the promotional coup?

'The World Cup, exclusive on ITV, would be an even bigger coup than signing Des Lynam'

But that's not all. Imagine that England is successful with its bid to host the World Cup finals in 2006. A host nation has to provide a host broadcaster to provide the basic sound and picture services for the rest of the world. The BBC has generally fulfilled that role in the past. But if ITV lands 2002 then it will gain all the options for 2006.

Imagine it: "The World Cup in England – exclusive on ITV!" Now that would be an even bigger coup than signing Des Lynam.

Striking gold...Mexico celebrate victory in the Confederations Cup

Europe still rules

MEXICO won the Confederations Cup and then gold again in the Pan-American Games soccer tournament. The next World Cup finals, in 2002, will be staged in Asia, in Japan and South Korea. So is the balance of power in the world game changing?

No doubt Mexico, after their dramatic 4-3 win over Brazil in the Confederations Cup Final, would like to think so. But the FIFA president Sepp Blatter still has his office in Zurich, and it is to European clubs that the world's finest players flock to earn top money.

The question about to be answered, now that the European transfer season is over and the football season is beginning, is whether all these superstars are really worth the money.

Remarkably, seven of the most expensive transfers of all time have been recorded this summer. No surprise that six of the top seven are strikers. The men who can win matches by one crucial effort in and around the penalty box are worth their weight not so much in gold nowadays as in share valuations.

They are also easy scapegoats. Lazio won the Cup-winners Cup last season thanks to the goals of Christian Vieri, but that wasn't good enough for owner Sergio Cragnotti. He wanted the Italian championship as well. So Vieri became surplus to requirements and it is now Internazionale who hope he will reward their massive investment with Serie A success.

Similarly, Parma have paid £22million for the Brazilian striker Marcio Amoroso from Udinese. Again, his task is simple: to score the goals that will win the League.

Same price, same story, different country. Real Madrid also paid £22m to purchase Nicolas Anelka from Arsenal. He is only 20 yet he must carry the burden of delivering the goals that will overthrow Barcelona as Spanish champions.

In France, too, Lyon set a transfer record when they paid £11m to sign Brazilian Sonny Anderson from Barcelona. Anderson, who made his name in France with Monaco, had been in the shadow of Patrick Kluivert at Barcelona. But he and Lyon have struggled thus far – Anderson with injuries and Lyon with poor form which threatened elimination from the Champions League.

It's a tough life. But fortunately for all these expensive superstars, any failures will be forgiven. In soccer as in every other team sport, it is the coach who carries the blame for poor results.

It's not enough for Ruud Gullit to say, after another under-performing Newcastle performance: "It's nothing to do with me." Directors and fans don't see it that way.

Transfer fees set to tumble

JEAN-LOUIS DUPONT is the Belgian lawyer who earned superstar status by pressing the case of Jean-Marc Bosman to its revolutionary climax. Since that December day in 1995, any and every footballer with a gripe has thought of knocking on his door.

Nicolas Anelka was one, and Dupont believes there will be more until football sorts out its contracts confusion.

Long-term contracts are not the long-term answer. He believes clubs such as Real Madrid pay excessive transfer fees (such as £22million) because of the likely sell-on value of the player concerned. Dupont also thinks that more and more players will challenge the practical validity of the present long-term contracts.

The answer? Dupont expects that, ultimately, the three-year contract will become the norm, throughout European Union football at least. Three-year deals will bring transfer fees crashing down and will not be worth a challenge from a player with itchy feet.

Gloom descends on MLS

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER promised that it was going to carry on where the 1994 World Cup organisation left off and prove that professional soccer can succeed in the United States.

The dismissal of Doug Logan as commissioner and his replacement by Don Garber (formerly of the National Football League, which means gridiron not soccer) makes you wonder.

Garber came to office promising that his five priorities for the challenge included "finding out about soccer". For a man who claims his role is to lead the American game forward, it was a remarkable admission. The problem, however, was that, honest as Garber appeared, his declaration must have sent an icy chill through many observers.

The Women's World Cup was a huge success as a one-off event. It was not meant, nor will it bring about, a resurgence of interest in the men's game. The outlook is gloomy.

On a mission...England's World Cup 2006 bid team set off for Zurich

England and South Africa close in

ALL FIVE contenders are into the final lap in the 2006 World Cup bidding race. Amid great ceremonial and glad-handing in Zurich, the delegations from South Africa, Morocco, England, Brazil and Germany handed over their beautifully-bound, full-colour, glossy books of facts and figures. No wonder FIFA president Sepp Blatter smiled so widely. One day he will have a set of unique door-stops.

Brazil and England shared the personality honours. Brazil turned out World Cup-winning captains Carlos Alberto (1970) and Dunga (1994) as well as 1980s hero Zico and present favourite Ronaldo. England lined up in Zurich with 1966 World Cup-winning knights Geoff Hurst and Bobby Charlton plus a hero of today, Michael Owen.

The general feeling, after all the fun and games and despite the imported Bierfest, is that it's between England (goodbye, Twin Towers!) and South Africa, with Germany running third and Brazil nowhere.

Everyone now wants to know, what about Morocco? The late King Hassan had put a great deal of enthusiasm and money behind Morocco's bids down the years (this is their third). His death could shift domestic opinion against pursuing the process, which is what the South Africans are desperate to hear. They fear the vote-splitting impact of the Moroccan campaign.

The South Africans are becoming increasingly vocal in urging the African confederation to decide between their bid and Morocco, but CAF has, so far, remained politically and diplomatically deaf.

Forecast fulfilled

Carlos Ramirez in Mexico City sees a string of disasters at the Confederations Cup

Home advantage...Mexico outclassed Brazil in the Confederations Cup Final

ALL forecasts made before the Confederations Cup were fulfilled: poor soccer, relatively low attendances, absence of important players, low-quality refereeing, typical summer weather with temperatures in the nineties and daily rain, a Final between Mexico and Brazil...everything as anticipated, except Mexico's 4-3 victory.

This was Mexico's fourth win over Brazil but their first in a FIFA-sponsored international event. It was also the only match worth seeing out of all 16.

The success of the Mexican youth development programme also was shown by the signing of 20-year-old defender Rafael Marquez by Monaco for a sum never before paid for a Mexican player: £3.7million.

This was the first Confederations Cup sponsored by FIFA, and almost certainly the last. Only Mexico, New Zealand, the USA and Egypt took it seriously.

Saudi Arabia brought a new team and in the words of the manager Milan Macala "were working to be a strong contender by the year 2000" – if he lasts that long!

Brazil left out Ronaldo, Rivaldo, Amoroso and Roberto Carlos, but brought some interesting players, such as Alex and Ronaldinho. They played poorly in their first three matches, had 45 brilliant minutes in the semi-final, thrashing Saudi Arabia 8-2, and were clearly outclassed by Mexico in the Final. Coach Wanderley Luxemburgo talked too much and anticipated a clear victory over Mexico, and in general the team was far from being representative of the old Brazil.

The US team showed progress but they lack a goal-scorer in the Wynalda mould. The defence have improved, and their tactical abilities are world class, yet they are still far from being top contenders.

Bolivia and Germany performed as expected. Hector 'Bambino' Vieira, Bolivia's coach, is revamping the team, introducing promising young players, mainly from the Tahuichi youth programme team. They played with little imagination.

Germany coach Erich Ribbeck's words say it all about his country's campaign: "We came here just to comply with the wishes of our federation, who are seeking to organise the next World Cup. I did not bring my best players."

His statements did little to justify the poor performances of the team, and Lothar Matthaus lost friends when he failed to attend a ceremony in the Azteca stadium, where he and Antonio Carbajal, the former Mexico keeper, were to be honoured for their appearance in five World Cups.

Mexico's players, tired and bored with a six-month programme that included the USA, Carlsberg and Korean Cups, Copa America and Confederations Cup, were also annoyed that most of them had not had time to negotiate their contracts with their clubs for the next League season.

The players also were frustrated by the passivity of the Mexican federation and Televisa, exclusive owners of all commercial rights of the national side, in accepting the suspension of Paulo Cesar Chavez (Guadalajara) and Rodrigo Lara (America), who failed to pass dope tests after the Copa America group match against Brazil. Sepp Blatter ruled that FIFA did not accept the suspensions, adding fuel to the fire.

Sources in South America say that some people want Mexico out of the Copa for many reasons: the TV rights dispute, the invitation by Colombia for Spain and Japan to participate in the next South American tournament, and as some sort of revenge against the TV moguls of Televisa.

CONFEDERATIONS CUP RESULTS

GROUP A

July 25 .....Mexico 5 Saudi Arabia 1
July 25 .....Bolivia 2 Egypt 2
July 27 .....Mexico 2 Egypt 2
July 27 .....Bolivia 0 Saudi Arabia 0
July 29 .....Saudi Arabia 5 Egypt 1
July 29 .....Mexico 1 Bolivia 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	3	2	1	0	8	3	7
Saudi Arabia	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Bolivia	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Egypt	3	0	2	1	5	9	2

GROUP B

July 24 .....Brazil 4 Germany 0
July 24 .....United States 2 New Zealand 1
July 28 .....Germany 2 New Zealand 0
July 28 .....Brazil 1 United States 0
July 30 .....United States 2 Germany 0
July 30 .....Brazil 2 New Zealand 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	3	0	0	7	0	9
United States	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Germany	3	1	0	2	2	6	3
New Zealand	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

Semi-finals

August 1...Mexico 1 United States 0
August 1...Brazil 8 Saudi Arabia 2

3rd place play-off

August 3...United States 2 Saudi Arabia 0

Final

August 4...Mexico 4 Brazil 3

On the pull...Gregg Berhalter of the USA holds back Mexico's Abundis

CNN WORLD SOCCER

TOP 10

World Class!

World Soccer teams up with CNN for a unique award

WORLD SOCCER is the pre-eminent international football magazine – and just in case any further proof were needed, then here it is. We are teaming up with CNN's sports news network in a monthly poll to enhance the excitement of and focus now directed at international club football.

Nearly 40 years ago, when World Soccer was in its infancy, the annual World Club Top 10 was one of the most eagerly-awaited and controversial of features. Now that Top 10 is being reintroduced.

The CNN/World Soccer Top 10 will be organised on a weekly basis. Each week experienced members of the World Soccer and CNN soccer reporting teams will draw up their individual ranking of the world's top 10 clubs.

Their votes will be collated and a monthly summary will be published in these pages. You can also catch up with the voting process on a weekly basis by tuning in to CNN's daily half-hour programme World Sport, which is broadcast around the globe on CNN Sports Illustrated and CNN International. World Soccer, of course, is THE international soccer magazine.

AUGUST TOP 10

1 Manchester United
2= Palmeiras and Bayern Munich
4 Barcelona
5 Milan
6 Lazio
7 Real Madrid
8 Parma
9 Boca Juniors
10 Corinthians

One to remember

Montano flies Colombia's flag… at 16

FOOTBALL has never been as much a young man's game as it is now. If a young hopeful has not made the top division grade by the time he is out of his teens, chances are he won't make it at all.

English football always was among the leaders of football's youth culture. Whereas, until recently in Italy, Spain and Germany, for example, players aged up to 23 and 24 were considered comparatively raw recruits. Now, even the continental appreciation of youth talent is changing.

That is why more and more clubs in Britain and Europe are turning their attention to youth championships in the rest of the world, and becoming football cradle-snatchers.

Belgian and Dutch clubs such as Anderlecht and Ajax were among the first to set up youth centres for kids as far afield as Scandinavia and South Africa. French club Auxerre became a mecca for junior talent from central Africa, and now the Italians are following suit.

The most notable swoop has been Parma's purchase of Colombian Jhonnier Montano, the 16-year-old attacking midfielder who astonished observers at this summer's Copa America.

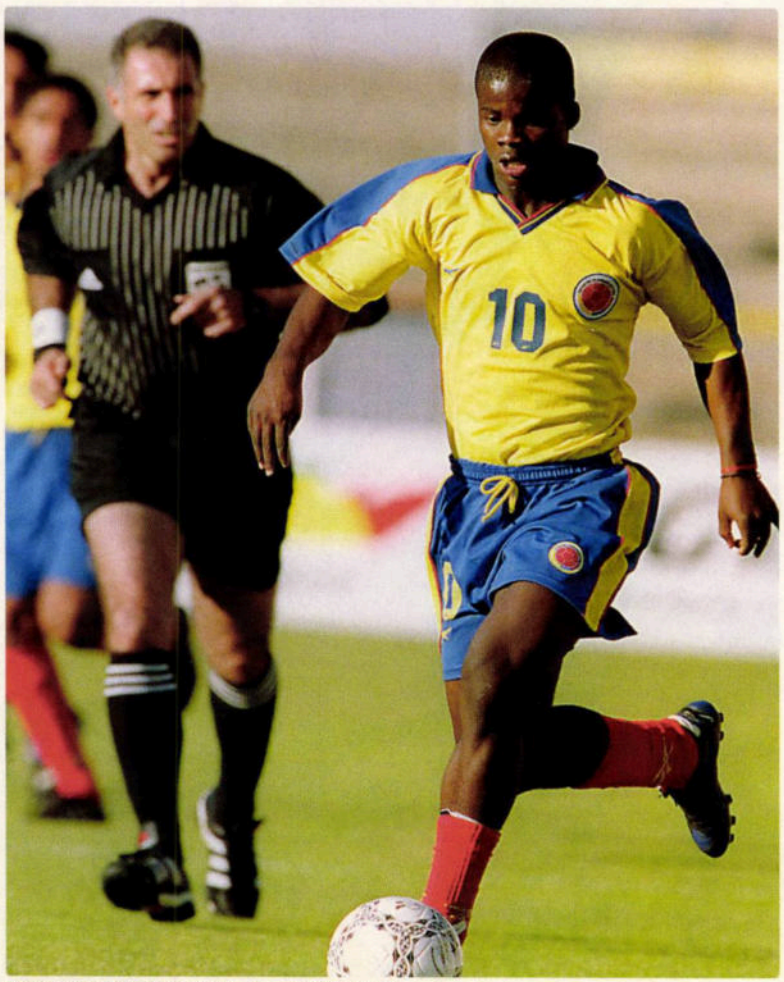
For most fans Colombia means unorthodox superstars such as erratic goalkeeper Rene Higuita, frizzy-haired midfield general Carlos Valderrama and temperamental striker Faustino Asprilla. Colombians believe Montano could exceed them all in terms of achievement and talent – yet, oddly, he has never played professional football in his own country.

Montano, born on January 14, 1983, began in the youth set-up at top club Deportivo Cali but was whisked away at 15, before he could turn professional, by Quilmes, an Argentinian Second Division outfit. A few years back Colombian clubs – many financed by money laundered for the drugs trade – signed a string of Argentine stars. Now the player trade is going in the opposite direction. Montano was one among many to fly south-east to the banks of the river Plate to make his name.

Montano first came to the attention of European spies and scouts when he played for Colombia at the annual under-20 tournament in Toulon, France, at the end of last season. Toulon has become a hunting ground for agents and Quilmes later claimed they had received enquiries from representatives of Juventus, Manchester United, Paris Saint-Germain and Ajax. But it was Parma, owned and financed by the multinational Parmalat foods corporation, who turned their interest into cash – some £1.1million.

Parma fans were by turns baffled, amused and irritated. Why were their club, with dreams of Champions League success this new season, apparently throwing away money on an unknown South American teenager from a country whose players have trouble adapting to life and football in Europe?

General manager Michele Uva was unfazed. He told the fans: "Just be patient. We are building our squad both for short-term and long-term needs. We may let Montano stay in Argentine football for another year or two or we may loan him to a Serie B or Serie C club in Italy. But we believe he has a great talent and is a potentially wonderful bargain. He represents the future success of our club."



Exciting talent…Colombia's Jhonnier Montano

Montano starred for Colombia at the South American youth championship early this year and was then, to his own surprise, called up by national coach Javier Alvarez for several senior friendlies ahead of the Copa America in Paraguay. Alvarez said: "While we are waiting to get our European-based players back it's a good opportunity for kids such as Montano to get the feel of senior international football."

Thus it was no surprise when Montano was not included in Colombia's squad for the Copa. On the eve of the flight to Paraguay, however, Asprilla was injured. Alvarez had no hesitation in sending for Montano.

Are you the new Asprilla, he was asked. Montano laughed, saying: "Asprilla's unique. I am just coming to the Copa to learn."

Alvarez had other ideas. Montano played the last half-hour of Colombia's opening 1-0 victory over eventual runners-up Uruguay, then made a goal-scoring substitute's appearance in their 3-0 defeat of Argentina. He went on as a second-half substitute in the 2-1 win over Ecuador…but was rested altogether for the quarter-final against Chile.

Without their teenage talisman, Colombia lost 3-2 and were eliminated. But by then the footballing world had woken up both to Montano's talent and to the realisation that shrewd Parma had stolen a march on them.

Remember the name…Jhonnier 'Johnny' Montano.

Keir Radnedge

Calm under pressure...FIFA general secretary Michel Zen Ruffinen

Monsieur Cool

Andrew Warshaw interviews the right-hand man of FIFA president Sepp Blatter

ALL SORTS of problems are directed towards Michel Zen Ruffinen in his role as FIFA president Sepp Blatter's right-hand man, but he fields them all with a cool assurance that has rarely betrayed him since he took the job eight months ago.

Not all of them are simple matters of office administration. More often than not, he has to dig deep into his legal background to solve the problems of the football world. But he loves the challenge, even if it has come quicker than he expected.

"To tell you the truth, I didn't expect to become general secretary quite so soon," he says. "I thought I might be a candidate in 2002, but I'm here a couple of years earlier than I expected." Now that it has happened, Zen Ruffinen is loving it.

He is, in essence, the complete opposite to his boss. While Blatter speaks his mind and shoots from the hip, or lip, Zen Ruffinen is more cautious and conservative. When Blatter speaks first and thinks later, Zen Ruffinen is there to tidy up any little indiscretions the president may, unwittingly, have left in his trail.

"We are very different, it is true, but we complement one another," Zen Ruffinen says. "I could never have the same style as him – he wouldn't like it. He needs an analyst, someone who can look at a situation and advise him. Sometimes I disagree with him but such disagreements never reach the public."

Normally, however, the pair agree on most things, including last month's unprecedented Asian walkout over the allocation of places for the 2002 World Cup. Blatter was furious and Zen Ruffinen can see why. "He was very disappointed because he thought the Asians would recognise that he had tried to find a solution. But we are reasonable people and I cannot believe they would go so far as to jeopardise their own World Cup."

Although Zen Ruffinen sometimes comes across as being aloof, he is a brilliant tactician when it comes to solving FIFA's numerous problems, and a master at answering awkward questions with clever diplomacy. When Blatter, invariably, leaves media conferences early to attend another meeting, Zen Ruffinen is always left at the table to answer any residual points.

When an issue is too sensitive, he manages to give very little away, no matter how many times you push him. He chuckles when I suggest this. "I admit I enjoy sending back the question to the journalist. Here again, my legal background has helped enormously. When you study law, you are able to take an overview of a situation yet at the same time deal with a specific issue quickly. Remember, I am trying to find solutions every day for 203 associations."

Zen Ruffinen was an international referee before he went into administration. Here, too, he can call on wide experience. "On the field of play, you have to act fast, to make decisions immediately. Sometimes, you have to explain your decisions when other people think they are wrong. I happen to believe that in this job, it's important that you have a strong knowledge of the game on the field so that people can't say you know nothing about football."

Zen Ruffinen, who is 40, commands a healthy respect from FIFA's 93-strong, Zurich-based staff. The job, he insists, is not as glamorous as it seems. Some of the time, he is having to deal with the thorny issue of television contracts, an area he admits he knew little about when he came into the job.

He points out: "Never forget that my title includes the word 'general' – which means that I am not responsible for any one area but for a broad variety. It's not just a football job. The human considerations within FIFA make up a huge part of what I do."

With the type of job he has, Zen Ruffinen does not have time to commute. He lives close to FIFA House and at weekends returns to the family home in his native Sion which he shares with his wife and three sons. But being general secretary of the largest individual sports organisation in the world is virtually a full-time job and Zen Ruffinen knows it.

"I try, at weekends, to put FIFA out of my head, especially if I am up in the mountains with the kids. But I am always contactable. You have to remember that on the other side of the world, they are working when we are sleeping, while in some countries they work on Sundays. It's non-stop."

Only about 20 people, however, have his mobile phone number. When I ask for it, he politely declines. "I had to change the number recently because too many people started ringing me."

As I got up to leave, I asked Zen Ruffinen whether, after 13 years at FIFA, we could expect to see him as the next president after Blatter. He shook his head. "I don't want the top job," he said.

"It has never been my ambition. I like the job of general secretary. Besides, I'm still learning."

Costly injury...Daniel Amokachi was tricked out of £70,000

Amokachi fraudsters caught

SIX men have been arrested in Kaduna, northern Nigeria, after national team striker Daniel Amokachi was cheated out of £70,000 by con men who promised him that spiritual healing would cure a long-standing knee injury.

When the healing failed to work, Amokachi protested to the men, who then stole his Rolex watch, before running off. They were quickly arrested.

COACHES ON THE MOVE

Yugoslavia call for Boskov

THE Yugoslavian FA has named former Sampdoria boss **Vujadin Boskov** as the new national team coach. He succeeds **Milan Zivadinovic**, who was sacked after he signed a lucrative coaching deal with Saudi Arabian club side Al Nasr (see page 65).

Latvia coach **Revaz Dzodzuashvili** has quit to take over another Saudi club, Al Ittihad, and has been replaced by Skonto Riga's **Alexander Starkov**.

Grasshopper have appointed former Swiss national coach **Roy Hodgson** (see page 61).

Sergei Butenko became the fifth coach to lose his job in Russia's top flight this season when he was sacked by struggling Chernomorets. He is succeeded by **Vladimir Fedotov.**

Johan Boskamp has been sacked by Dinamo Tbilisi after their shock defeat in the Champions League qualifying round by Zimbru Chisinau. He will remain in charge of the Georgia national side.

COACHES STAYING ON

● Barcelona coach **Louis Van Gaal** has signed a two-year extension to his contract, which will keep him at the club until 2002.

PLAYERS STAYING ON

● **Alan Shearer** has extended his contract with Newcastle until 2004.

● West Ham midfielder **Frank Lampard** has agreed to stay at the club until 2005.

● Barcelona defender **Sergi** has committed himself to the club until at least 2002.

● **Matthias Sammer**, out of action since October 1997 with a knee injury, has had his contract extended by Borussia Dortmund.

INTERNATIONAL INS AND OUTS

Stojkovic out of Croatia qualifier

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT refused permission for **Dragan Stojkovic** to join the Yugoslavia national squad for the vital Euro 2000 tie against Croatia. According to Yugoslav FA secretary Branko Bulatovic, the Japanese club insisted on retaining the player because of an important League game.

Brendan Augustine has been recalled to the South Africa squad just over a year after being sent home from France 98 for breaking curfew.

Borussia Dortmund's **Vladimir But** was recalled to Russia's squad for the friendly against Belarus.

Ian Nolan is back in the Northern Ireland squad after a two-year absence.

● **Czech Republic** squad for the August 18 friendly with Switzerland in Drnovice: Ladislav Maier (Rapid Wien), Pavel Srnicek (Sheffield Wednesday), Marek Nikl (Nurnberg), Tomas Repka (Fiorentina), Jan Suchoparek (TeBe Berlin), Roman Tyce (1860 Munich), Miroslav Baranek (Sparta Prague), Radek Bejbl (Atletico Madrid), Tomas Galasek (Willem II Tilburg), Pavel Horvath (Slavia Prague), Pavel Nedved (Lazio), Jiri Nemec (Schalke), Karel Poborsky (Benfica), Radomir Sloncik (Banik Ostrava) Jan Koller (Anderlecht), Pavel Kuka (Stuttgart), Vratislav Lokvenc (Sparta Prague), Rene Wagner (Rapid Wien).

● **Sweden**'s squad for the friendly against Austria: Magnus Hedman (Coventry), Magnus Kihlstedt (Brann), Joachim Bjorklund (Valencia), Tomas Gustafsson (AIK Stockholm), Andreas Jacobsson (Helsingborgs), Pontus Kamark (AIK Stockholm), Teddy Lucic (Bologna), Roland Nilsson (Helsingborgs), Niclas Alexandersson (Sheffield Wednesday), Daniel Andersson (Bari), Fredrik Ljungberg (Arsenal), Hakan Mild (IFK Gothenburg), Johan Mjallby (Celtic), Stefan Schwarz (Sunderland), Magnus Svensson (Viking Stavanger), Kennet Andersson (Lazio), Mattias Jonsson (Helsingborgs), Henrik Larsson (Celtic), Yksel Osmanovski (Bari), Jorgen Pettersson (Kaiserslautern).

OUT OF ACTION

Cole sidelines Colosimo

Australian defender **Simon Colosimo** is likely to be out for six months after a tackle by Manchester United's Andy Cole tore knee ligaments.

Cole's team-mate, **Wes Brown**, has suffered cruciate knee ligament damage and is likely to miss several months of the season.

Another Manchester Utd player, **Ronnie Wallwork**, has been banned for life by the Belgian FA for attacking a referee following a game for Royal Antwerp, with whom he was on loan. United team-mate, **Danny Higginbotham**, also on loan to Antwerp, was banned for a year for insulting the official.

Veteran Bulgaria forward **Lubo Penev** has announced his retirement having been elected president of his former club CSKA Sofia. Most recently, Penev had been on the books of Celta Vigo in Spain.

Linz ASK and Austria midfielder **Klaus Rohseano** has been told he must take a three-month break after suffering a stroke at a national squad training camp.

Setback...Simon Colosimo

Dietmar Hamann will miss the first two months of the season after damaging ankle ligaments in Liverpool's opening match.

Kjetil Rekdal of Hertha Berlin will be out for two months after cracking his tibia in the Champions League qualifier against Anorthosis Famagusta.

Sergei Yuran has been sacked by Moscow Spartak.

Anderlecht midfielder **Enzo Scifo** will miss three months after injuring his right shoulder.

FOOTBALL BUSINESS

● FIFA has lifted the six-month ban on Mexico internationals Raul Rodrigo Lara and Paulo Cesar Chavez, imposed by the South American Football Confederation after the players tested positive for testosterone and nandrolone respectively at the Copa America. FIFA president Sepp Blatter said that tests were carried out at laboratories not recognised by his organisation nor the International Olympic Committee.

● Yokohama's International stadium will be the venue for the 2002 World Cup Final. The Japanese organising committee said that the stadium's 70,718 capacity gave it the edge over the other candidate, the Saitama Prefectural Soccer stadium, which will hold 63,060 when completed.

● Bayern Munich's **Lothar Matthaus** has been voted German Footballer of the Year, ahead of Michael Preetz of Hertha Berlin and Bayer Leverkusen's Oliver Neuville.

OBITUARIES

● Astra Ploiesti midfielder **Stefan Vrabioru** died of a heart attack following his side's 1-1 draw with Rapid Bucharest in the Romanian First Division.

● **Laurie Scott**, the former Arsenal and England player, has died, aged 84.

LATE SUMMER TRANSFERS

		FROM	TO
Philippe Albert	D	Newcastle	Charleroi
Marco Almeida	D	Sporting Lisbon	Southampton (loan)
Trond Andersen	D	Molde	Wimbledon
Andreas Andersson	F	Newcastle	AIK
Nicolas Anelka	F	Arsenal	Real Madrid
Valid Badir	D	Hapoel Petach Tikva	Wimbledon
Michael Ballack	M	Kaiserslautern	Bayer Leverkusen
Christian Bassila	D	Lyon	Rennes
Florin Batrinu	D	Dinamo Bucharest	Unaio Leiria
Alberto Belsue	D	Zaragoza	Numancia
Eduardo Berizzo	D	River Plate	Marseille
George Boateng	M	Coventry	Aston Villa
Michael Bridges	F	Sunderland	Leeds
John Carew	F	Valerenga	Rosenborg
Albert Celades	M	Barcelona	Celta Vigo
Stephane Chapuisat	F	Borussia Dortmund	Grasshopper
Matt Clarke	G	Sheffield Wed	Bradford
Edwin Congo	F	Real Madrid	Valladolid (loan)
Pablo Contreras	D	Colo Colo	Monaco
Pedro Contreras	G	Real Madrid	Malaga
Kelvin Davis	G	Luton	Wimbledon
Ivan De la Pena	M	Lazio	Marseille (loan)
Frederic Dindeleux	D	Lille	Kilmarnock
Youri Djorkaeff	M	Internazionale	Kaiserslautern
Sean Dundee	F	Liverpool	Stuttgart
Edgar Patricio	F	Real Madrid	Malaga
Dan Eggen	D	Celta Vigo	Alaves
Tim Flowers	G	Blackburn	Leicester
Dominic Foley	F	Wolves	Watford
Esteban Fuertes	F	Colon Santa Fe	Derby
Najwan Graieb	D	Hapoel Haifa	Aston Villa
Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink	F	Leeds	Atletico Madrid
Thierry Henry	F	Juventus	Arsenal
Borge Hernes	F	Rosenborg	Valerenga (loan)
Darren Huckerby	F	Coventry	Leeds
Paul Ince	M	Liverpool	Middlesbrough
Michael Ingham	G	Cliftonville	Sunderland
Julio Cesar	D	Valladolid	Real Madrid
Ivan Kaviedes	F	Perugia	Celta Vigo
Kasey Keller	G	Leicester	Rayo Vallecano
Marco Lanna	D	Salamanca	Zaragoza
Bruno Leal	M	Sporting Lisbon	Southampton
Fabien Leclerq	D	Lille	Hearts
Oyvind Leonhardsen	M	Liverpool	Tottenham
Gustavo Lopez	F	Zaragoza	Celta Vigo
Des Lyttle	D	Nottm Forest	Watford
Ramiz Mamedov	D	Kryliya Sovetov	Kyiv Dynamo
Rafael Marquez	D	Atlas Guadalajara	Monaco
Benni McCarthy	F	Ajax	Celta Vigo
Albert Nadj	M	Betis Sevilla	Oviedo
Runar Normann	M	Lillestrom	Coventry
Nico Olivera	F	Valencia	Sevilla
John Oster	M	Everton	Sunderland
Stuart Pearce	D	Newcastle	West Ham
Morten Pedersen	D	Rosenborg	Valerenga (loan)
Mark Pembridge	M	Benfica	Everton
Bobby Petta	M	Ipswich	Celtic
David Preece	G	Darlington	Aberdeen
Quinzinho	F	Sporting Lisbon	Rayo Vallecano
Neil Redfearn	M	Charlton	Bradford
Dean Richards	D	Wolves	Southampton
Roberto Rojas	D	Real Madrid	Malaga
Fernando Sanz	D	Real Madrid	Malaga
Dean Saunders	F	Benfica	Bradford
Stefan Schwarz	M	Valencia	Sunderland
Dario Silva	F	Penarol	Malaga
Davor Suker	F	Real Madrid	Arsenal
Imre Szabics	F	Ferencvaros	Sturm Graz
Neil Tarrant	M	Ross County	Aston Villa
Olivier Tebily	D	Sheffield Utd	Celtic
Moritz Volz	M	Schalke	Arsenal
Kjetil Waehler	D	Lyn	Wimbledon
Paulo Wanchope	F	Derby	West Ham
Markus Weissenberger	F	Linz ASK	Arminia Bielefeld
Mark Williams	D	Chesterfield	Watford
Chris Willmott	D	Luton	Wimbledon
Christian Ziege	D	Milan	Middlesbrough

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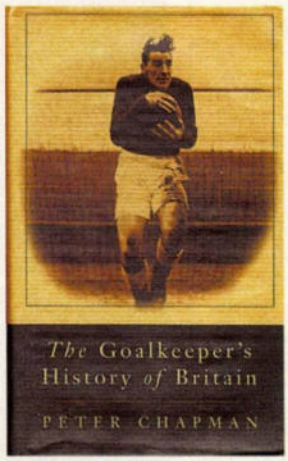
A new monthly column rounding up the best (and worst) in football publishing

BOOK OF THE MONTH

THE GOALKEEPER'S HISTORY OF BRITAIN

by Peter Chapman

(Fourth Estate, £16.99)



Too early for Christmas presents? Not if you have a soccer-loving relation or friend with an IQ above Sun-Mirror readership levels. If you do, and you can manage the none-too-cheap asking price, get this. It's a lovely piece of work, 340 well-filled pages, including an index, which covers the reader with a warm glow of nostalgia, from World War Two through some golden years and up to the present day.

Goalkeepers are the peg on which Peter Chapman hangs his preferences and prejudices while making this journey, from his Islington boyhood to the Major and Blair years, when soccer became the In Thing and, as he puts it, "people who found themselves inexplicably roaming to see Rotherham or niggled by Newcastle suddenly were everywhere".

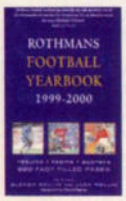
The author loved his football long before the current age, when the much-needed rich signed up and replaced the not-so-fortunate who have been priced out of the game.

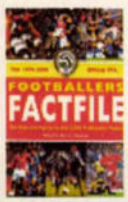
His story is evocative and amusing, with plenty of pertinent points made about the changing nature of Britain and its national sport. Also, there are very few factual errors. On a personal note, I'm delighted by and share his admiration for Frank Swift (pictured) and Bert Trautmann (odd that the two best keepers I've seen should play for the same club).

Yes, definitely one for somebody's Christmas stocking. But read it yourself first.

David Prole

World Soccer readers can obtain 'The Goalkeeper's History of Britain' at the special price of £12.99 – post free in the UK – from the Football Book Club. For more details, see page 83.





ROTHMANS FOOTBALL YEARBOOK 1999-2000

Edited by Glenda Rollin and Jack Rollin

(Headline, £18.99 softback, £30 hardback)

The appearance of Rothmans, the English football 'bible', is akin to the first cuckoo in spring. It has become the secure sign that the sporting calendar has turned and football is back with us – if, indeed, in these days, it ever went away.

For 30 years now the familiar blue volume has been the reliable servant of officials, media and fans. While Glenda Rollin – who grew up with the book – is now the editor, there is still no doubting the thorough touch of father Jack, who 'graduated' to Rothmans from the editorship of World Soccer all those years ago.

Rothmans has conceded defeat in the wearisome task of collecting squad photographs. Clubs' commercial jealousies and production deadlines have long meant that only the previous season's squad picture could be used. Now those pictures have gone and the book is none the worse for it – indeed, it has gained in information the little it has lost in graphical decoration.

Rothmans remains pre-eminent in the field of domestic statistics. But that comes at a price for internationally-minded readers – namely the further erosion of space for the worldwide game even within a volume containing 960 pages. The club pages plus player catalogue and last season's domestic cup breakdown take 602 pages – almost two-thirds of the book. By the time Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the semi-professional leagues have been included, along with fixture lists, 'only' 146 pages remain for the international arena.

Still, that is a minor quibble. If you have a query, it's 10-1 on you will find the answer in Rothmans…as usual.

Keir Radnedge

BARÇA

by Jimmy Burns

(Bloomsbury, £16.99)

Barcelona is a gift for a football history writer. The incidents, the personalities, the storms come tumbling out down the years. From the founder Hans Gamper, who committed suicide, to the cloak and dagger 'capture' of Ladislav Kubala, to the accession of Johan Cruyff – a far greater success as coach at Camp Nou than as a player – the club's history is steeped in drama.

All of it, of course, laced with the political and cultural strands that make Barcelona unique among the world's biggest clubs.

Jimmy Burns acknowledges that 'Barça' is not an official history but then, it is probably all the more interesting for that. One can imagine many Barcelona adherents would not include some of the tales in anything 'official'.

Only one aspect of the book was a disappointment: it took 70 pages to get to the start. Perhaps the editors to whom Burns pays credit in his acknowledgements let him down.

Barcelona is a great enough story on its own; Burns' passion for the club should not have been compromised by a meandering, confused and, at times, verbally jarring opening. We recommend you start on page 70 and then read the opening three chapters in conclusion. That will make the book even more enjoyable.

Keir Radnedge

FOOTBALLERS FACTFILE

by Barry Hugman

(Virgin, £14.99)

Barry Hugman has been doing this and similar compilations for years, to the point where he could be excused for feeling a touch of boredom. If he does then he does not let it show.

This is another splendid effort, fitting the average pocket and worth almost every penny. What a pity that there are so many tired old phrases scattered in between the facts.

VIRGIN POCKET ANNUAL

by Bruce Smith

(Virgin, £5.99)

You don't often pick up a book without being able to differentiate between title, author and publisher. You do with this one. It's a mass of cliché-ridden facts and figures under a plethora of different titles and sponsors.

There are some 320 pages, illuminated – if that's the word – with incomprehensible abbreviations such as FAPL, GA, CSO, etc, etc.

Is this really the best that The Mirror, Carling, Virgin, Smith and co can manage?

EUROPEAN CLUB FOOTBALL 1999-2000

by Bruce Smith

(HarperCollins, £4.99)

Another stats offering from Smith, who is described as having written nearly 200 books on different topics.

One of the troubles with writing at this breakneck pace is that factual errors can increase in proportion. And do.

NEWS OF THE WORLD FOOTBALL ANNUAL

Edited by Eric Brown

(HarperCollins, £5.99)

First published in 1887 and still going strong, although the new typeface strikes me as being harder to read than the old.

The NoW book is, as ever, wonderful value. How much better it will be next year, when they up the typesize and the pagination!

David Prole

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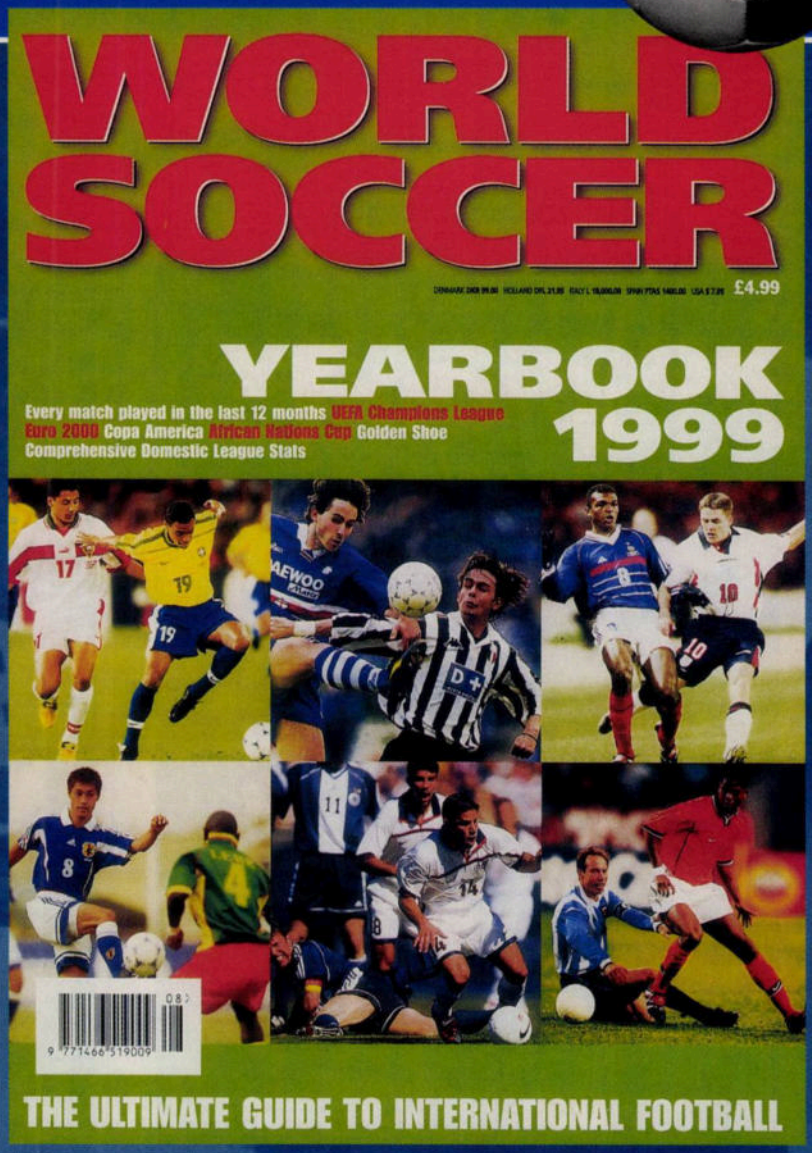

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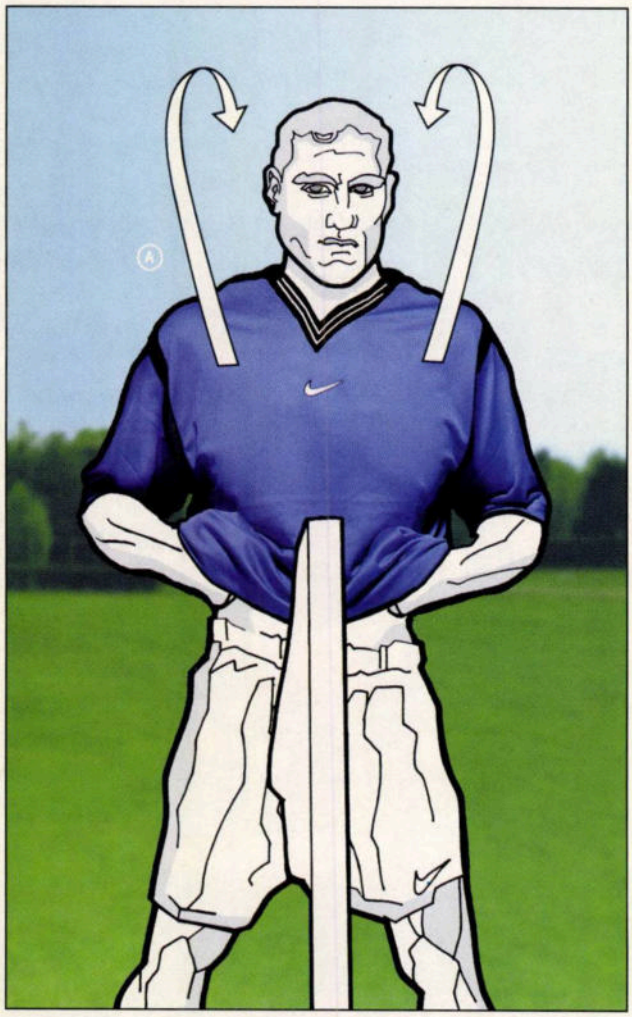


Fig 1

Celebration is one of the most important psychological weapons on the pitch.

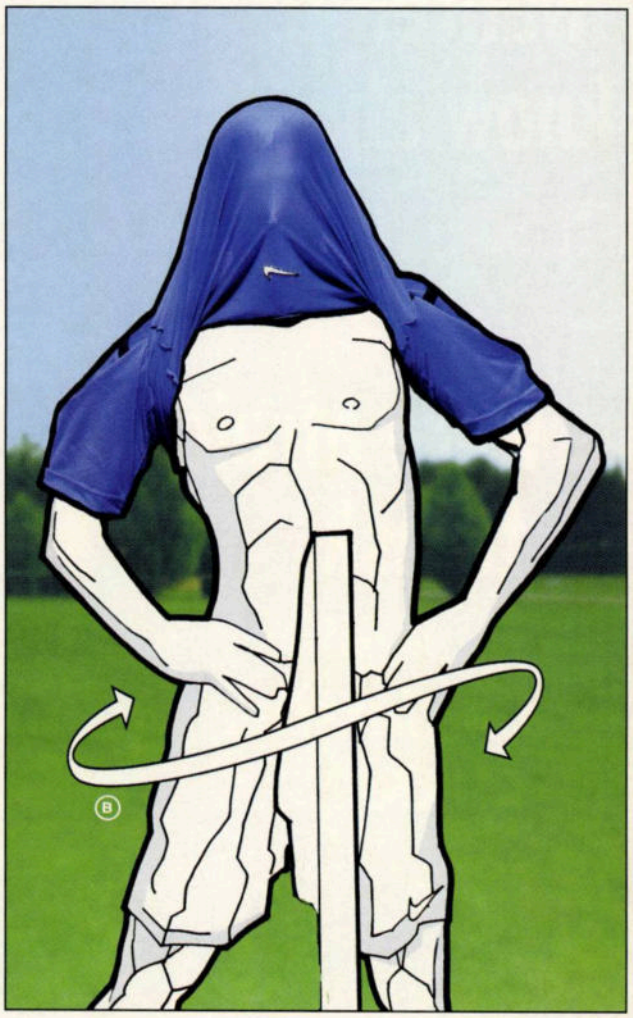


Fig 2

Watch how even the usually reserved Christian Vieri can execute this move.

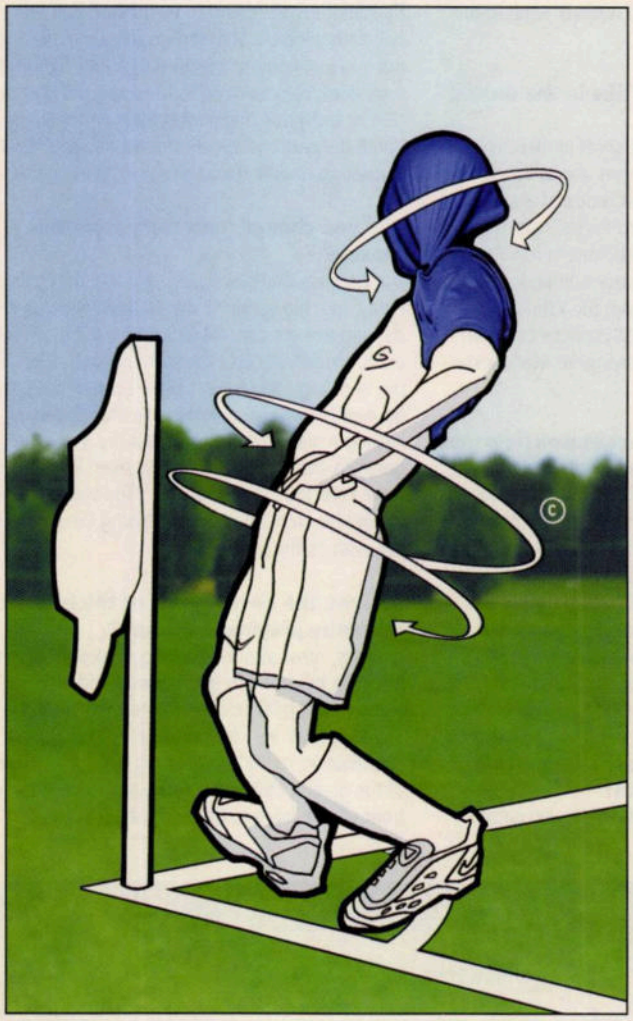


Fig 3

From a technical point of view it's completely unnecessary for Christian to take off the shirt. The Nike Mesh Training Jersey is breathable and always leaves you dry (see below 3.1 and 3.2).

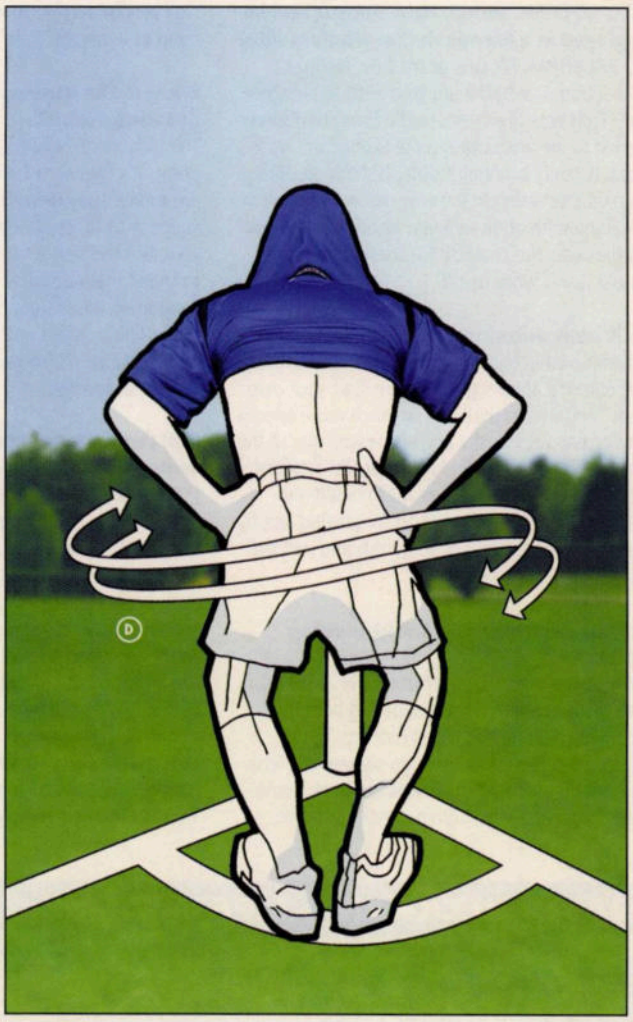
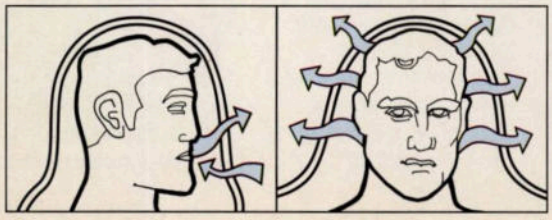


Fig 4

Remember to remove jersey from head before the restart.



3.1 3.2

The mesh construction of the Nike Training Jersey eliminates any danger of suffocation.

David Beckham

'I couldn't be happier'

Manchester United's star midfielder talks to John Holmesdale about life in the fast lane

WORLD SOCCER: David, How does it feel to have played in a European Cup-winning side?
DAVID BECKHAM: It's one of the best feelings I have ever had. I've had a big year with the birth of my son. That was the most special thing that's ever happened to me and winning the European Cup is the next. It really is unbelievable. It's odd to think the Cup was actually on the way down to the pitch in Barcelona with all the Bayern Munich colours on it. But that was the story of the season for United – you could never write us off.

Does it beat winning the Premiership?
The championship last season was actually a really special one. It's always great to win it at your own ground. That always makes it so much more special for the fans as well as the players. It was one of the best atmospheres I've ever known at Old Trafford and the fans certainly did their bit in helping us back from 1-0 down. It was good to get that trophy as it gave us the confidence to go out and win the FA Cup and European Cup.

Have you ever thought about leaving United?
I've never even considered it but I think at the start of last season, people were wondering how it would go for me staying in this country. They wondered whether I'd crack or go somewhere else abroad but all I wanted to do was get back home and start playing again. Coming back to United was very important to me and it never entered my mind to leave the club.

What is the atmosphere like in the United dressing-room?
The lads are excellent and the spirit in there is great. It's the team spirit that has got us where we are today. They're such a great group of players. I suppose at times it's been hard for me over the last year, but the lads have been brilliant to me. I'd like to thank them because they were tremendously supportive when I got back from the World Cup. We're like a family and it's that aspect more than anything else which makes playing for Manchester United so special.

Will the experiences of last season help you to become a better player in the future?
I think they will. You learn things as you go along in this game, just like you do in life, and what happened to me last season has made me a stronger person. I realised that if I could cope with that, I could probably cope with most things that will happen to me in my career. I've changed as a result and I had a lot of fun last season – it was one of my most enjoyable. Hopefully that will continue over the next nine months.

Did away fans' taunts upset your game more than usual last term?
You know when you play in the big away games that the fans are going to be behind their team and will be booing us. That makes for some atmosphere but you just have to get used to things like that. As a professional you need to tune yourself out of that part of the game and concentrate on the job in hand. It's part and parcel of football and I have learned to handle it and get on with my game.

Will you change your fiery style this season?
No, because that's the way I am and that's the way I play. In a big game, things happen and you react. As long as I am concentrating on my job on the pitch, then that's OK. The manager has never asked me to change and I don't think I could. If I get booked for saying something to the referee or kicking a player, then that's just me. I'm never going to change, as I've always been like that ever since I started playing football. The spotlight will always be on me but it's something I'm learning to live with as the years go by.

Are you the best crosser of the ball currently playing in Europe?
Actually, most of our attacking moves come down from the left but I do get involved and enjoy it when I do. Any time I can get to the byline and put a decent cross in, I feel like I'm really making a contribution to the team. When you leave players of the quality of Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole up front all you have to do is pop the ball on their

DAVID BECKHAM – LIFE & TIMES

Early days...life in Leytonstone

May 2, 1976 Born in Leytonstone, London
1991 Signs schoolboy forms with Manchester United
May 1992 Wins the FA Youth Cup
October 1, 1992 Makes his debut for United against Brighton in the League Cup
1995 Goes on loan to Preston North End, scoring twice in five appearances
June 6, 1995 Makes his England Under-21 debut, against France

United nut...teenage Beckham

May 1996 United win the League and Cup double
September 1, 1996 Makes his full England debut, against Moldova in a World Cup qualifier
April 1997 Named PFA Young Player of the Year
June 1998 Plays for England at the World Cup finals. Tournament ends in disgrace when he is sent off against Argentina
May 1999 Plays a leading role in United's unique treble of League, FA Cup and European Cup

Good times...success with England

heads. As a midfielder it's obviously my job to do that, in just the same way that as strikers it's mainly their jobs to put the ball in the back of the net.

Did England do badly against Bulgaria and Sweden because players are paid too much to care these days?
People talk about how much players get paid and ask whether they would still enjoy playing for their country if the money wasn't there – but of course you would. Even as a young lad that's the one thing you want to do – play at Wembley and put the England shirt on. That's something I always loved and wanted to do, play for Manchester United and play for England. Today I'm doing both so I couldn't be happier.

How big an influence is Alex Ferguson on you?
He brought me up and made my career since I came to the club. We all owe the manager everything. He phoned me the day after the match against Argentina and when the manager of your club gives you backing like that, it really makes you want to play for him. I was so pleased when he was knighted. When someone like him gets honoured, you have to say it's well deserved. He's so totally consistent and he's always there for all the United lads.

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Bad times...the red card against Argentina

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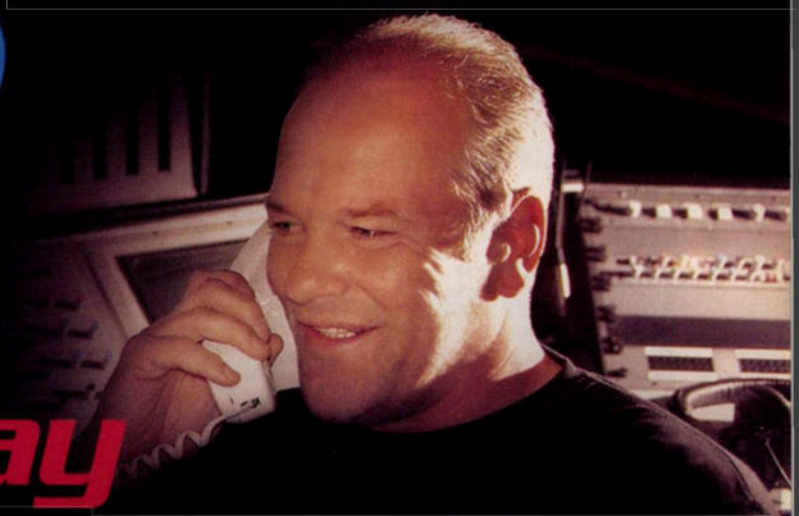

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Toiling through the turmoil

Dariusz Kurowski on a squad's survival from political interference

Defensive asset...Jacek Bak

WHEN Janusz Wojcik took over as national coach of Poland in 1997 his appointment did not surprise anyone. He was a favourite among journalists and fans, and the country's president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, also supported him.

For many years Wojcik had not been the best candidate as far as the Polish FA (PZPN) was concerned, because of his criticism of the domestic football authorities and his controversial way of working. But fans knew him as the only person who could change the situation, with the national team on a low having failed to qualify for three World Cups and three European Championships.

Wojcik, who led the Olympic team to Poland's last international success, a silver medal in 1992, said: "I believe the national team can play much better. I will try to do everything to get to the European Championship 2000. Our nation needs football success!"

But after a 'cold shower' in Tbilisi when Poland were destroyed 3-0 by Georgia at the end of their qualification campaign for France 98, he was not so enthusiastic. Shortly after that, Wojcik's side fell to 61st position in the FIFA rankings, their lowest ever.

The coach then decided to change the playing system from 3-5-2 to 4-4-2 and his team started to win, first in friendlies and then in the Euro 2000 qualifying campaign. After a 3-0 victory away to Bulgaria and another win, by the same score, against Luxembourg, Poland unexpectedly led the group table with six points and a better goal difference than Sweden.

Miroslaw Trzeciak, the national team captain, declared: "We are not a lost generation as many people thought, and we have proved we can play!"

The next test, against England at Wembley, ended the nine-game unbeaten run. Poland lost 3-1 and four days later were defeated 1-0 by Sweden at home.

"We must go back down to earth and should apologise to our fans," said Wojcik, who at the time had been involved with off-field problems.

FIFA had sent the Polish FA a letter demanding the election of a new chairman, in an effort to end the conflict between the FA and the Ministry of Sport – described by newspapers as 'total war'. The row began last year when several Polish FA officials were suspended by the Sport Minister, Jacek Debski, because they did not release control of association documents.

A joint FIFA-UEFA commission visited Poland to investigate, and told both sides that if they did not change, Polish teams would be suspended from international competition. The minister withdrew the suspension, and expected that the FA chairman, Marian Dziurowicz, would resign as part of the arrangement. However, he did not, and as a result 12 club chairmen opposed to Dziurowicz ruled that their teams would not play in the official Polish League, and demanded that he resign. The boycott lasted for two match days and though the League did eventually get underway again, the situation remained unresolved until June, when Michal Listkiewicz, a former secretary of the federation, was elected as new chairman of the FA.

His appointment ended the conflict with the Minister of Sport. And now Listkiewicz, who says he would like to "create a positive image of Polish football", needs the help of Wojcik and his team.

After the two June Euro 2000 qualifiers ended in victory, 2-0 at home to Bulgaria and 3-2 away to Luxembourg, Poland are second in the table with 12 points, three ahead of England, who play in Warsaw on September 8. It is clear that the side have a great chance of getting to the play-offs, and the public have started to believe that the national team are good enough to get to the finals of a major tournament for the first time since 1986.

The squad

In charge...Janusz Wojcik

THE COACH

Janusz WOJCIK
Born: 18.11.53.
Played as a defender for lower division clubs Agrykola, Gwardia, Ursus and Hutnik before joining Toronto Falcons. As coach, he took Poland to Olympic silver in 1992, then led Legia to the Polish title in 1993. Wojcik went on to take charge of the UAE Olympic team, and also coached two UAE club sides. Replaced Antoni Piechniczek as coach of Poland in July 1997.

GOALKEEPERS

Adam MATYSEK
19.07.68. Bayer Leverkusen (Ger). 25 caps.
Joined Bayer last year after spending a few seasons with German Second Division clubs Fortuna Koln and FC Gutersloh. Came back into the national team in 1998 after a five-year absence.

Grzegorz SZAMOTULSKI
13.05.76. Legia Warsaw. 9 caps.
Normally a sub. A solid keeper who made his debut against Cyprus in 1996.

Jerzy DUDEK
23.03.73. Feyenoord (Hol). 1 cap.
The best keeper in the Dutch League last season. Finally won a first-team place at Feyenoord in 1997; still waiting for his chance with Poland.

DEFENDERS

Tomasz WALDOCH
10.05.71. Schalke (Ger). 52 caps (2 gls).
Won his first cap against Sweden in 1991 after making his name in the Bundesliga. Moved from Bochum to Schalke during the summer break.

Tomasz LAPINSKI
01.08.69. Widzew Lodz. 36 caps.
Cultured central defender with great vision. A member of the 1992 Olympic squad. Made his national team debut in the same year.

Jacek ZIELINSKI
10.10.67. Legia Warsaw. 33 caps (1 gl).
Won his first cap in 1995 and became an undisputed first-team choice. His understanding with Lapinski has made them a solid defensive duo.

Tomasz HAJTO
16.10.72. Duisburg (Ger). 24 caps (3 gls).
Right-back or midfielder with the longest throw-in in the squad. Also a free-kick specialist. Most-booked player in the Bundesliga last season.

Rafal SIADACZKA
21.02.72. Austria Wien (Aut). 13 caps (2 gls).
Moved to Austria from Widzew Lodz in the middle of last season. Can play as a left-back or left-sided midfielder. Scored against Luxembourg in June.

Dariusz ADAMCZUK
21.10.69. Rangers (Sco). 10 caps (1 gl).
Right-back. Another silver medallist from 1992. Came back to the national team in March after six years. Joined Rangers from Dundee during the close season.

Jacek BAK
24.03.73. Lyon (Fra). 23 caps (1 gl).
Moved from Lech Poznan to Lyon in 1995. Can operate anywhere in the defence or as a defensive midfielder.

Tomasz KLOS
07.03.73. Auxerre (Fra). 12 caps (1 gl).
Dynamic right-back who loves to attack. Won the title with LKS Lodz in 1998 before joining Auxerre.

Radoslaw KALUZNY
02.02.74. Wisla Krakow. 13 caps (3 gls).
Joined Wisla last year from Zaglebie. Not a certain starter for Poland, but making a strong case for regular inclusion. A free-kick specialist.

MIDFIELDERS

Jerzy BRZECZEK
18.03.71. Maccabi Haifa (Isr). 42 caps (4 gls).
Moved to Israel from Linz ASK during the winter. A big favourite of Wojcik. Playmaker of the 1992 Olympic side. Scored the only goal for Poland at Wembley in March.

Slawomir MAJAK
12.01.69. Hansa Rostock (Ger). 21 caps.
Played with Widzew Lodz in the Champions League in 1996 before joining Hansa the following year. Best Polish player in 1997. Dangerous when running from deep. Prefers to play behind the strikers.

Tomasz IWAN
12.06.71. PSV (Hol). 23 caps (4 gls).
Hard worker and one of Wojcik's key players. Had not played in the national team for a year after a row with former coach Piechniczek. Made his name with Roda JC in Holland before being sold to Feyenoord in 1995. Two years later joined PSV. Has scored three goals in the Euro 2000 qualifiers.

Piotr SWIERCZEWSKI
08.04.72. Bastia (Fra). 41 caps (1 gl).
Another hard worker in midfield who came back to Bastia over the summer after a few months in Japan with Gamba Osaka.

Ryszard CZERWIEC
28.02.68. Wisla Krakow. 26 caps.
After five years with Widzew moved to Guingamp in France, then joined Wisla a year later, in 1998. Playmaker with great distribution and vision who led his team to last season's title. However, he has not yet performed for Poland like he does at club level.

Radoslaw MICHALSKI
21.09.69. Widzew Lodz. 25 caps.
A key man for Widzew. Previously with Legia Warsaw. Strong in the air and comfortable on the ball.

Krzysztof NOWAK
27.09.75. Wolfsburg (Ger). 8 caps (1 gl).
Celebrated his first full cap, in June 1997, with a goal against Georgia. Joined Wolfsburg from Brazilian club Atletico Paranaense in 1998.

FORWARDS

Miroslaw TRZECIAK
11.04.68. Osasuna (Spa). 19 caps (8 gls).
The key player in the national side. Poland's Footballer of the Year in 1998. Made his international debut against Sweden in 1991, then did not feature for six years. Helped LKS Lodz to the championship in 1998 before joining Osasuna.

Tomasz FRANKOWSKI
16.08.74. Wisla Krakow. 2 caps.
After five years with Strasbourg, Stade Poitiers and Martigues in France, and Grampus Eight in Japan, came back to Poland and helped Wisla to win the title last season, when he was top scorer with 21 goals.

Andrzej JUSKOWIAK
03.11.70. Wolfsburg (Ger). 32 caps (13 gls).
Good finisher and strong in the air. Top scorer with seven goals in the Olympics in 1992. With Sporting Lisbon, Olympiakos and Borussia Monchengladbach before joining Wolfsburg in 1998.

Key man...Tomasz Iwan

Artur WICHNIAREK
28.02.77. Widzew Lodz. 6 caps (2 gls).
Made his national debut in March, against Armenia. The revelation of last season, displaying great technique and scoring ability. Learned his skills at Lech before moving to Widzew in 1997.

Maciej ZURAWSKI
12.09.76. Lech Poznan. 5 caps.
One of the best young prospects in Poland. Joined Lech from Warta Poznan in 1998. Won his first cap as a sub against Slovakia last year.

Radoslaw GILEWICZ
08.05.71. FC Tirol (Aut). 2 caps.
Has settled well in Austria since arriving from Karlsruhe midway through last season.

Success this time?

Norway should benefit from the failure of 1996, says Sigurd Odegaard

Looking forward...Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

WHEN Norwegian national team manager Nils Johan Semb took over from Egil Olsen just after France 98, he knew that some of his players might be less hungry for further success. Having qualified for the World Cup and then progressed from the group stage, key players were likely to need time to recuperate.

And that was exactly what happened. Semb, relying on the same nucleus of players as Olsen and adding some fresh talent, immediately ran into problems. During the scoreless friendly at home against Romania in August 1998 his players lacked initiative and flair and played without imagination. This was an omen of what was to come.

The draw for the Euro 2000 qualifiers suggested that Norway had avoided the most difficult nations, which would consequently make Semb's task of taking the team to the finals relatively easy. But Norway had a bad start to the campaign, managing only one point from their first two home matches, against minnows Latvia and Albania.

The press soon started moaning and Semb suddenly discovered that he would need all his football know-how.

The coach, now 40, has had the best of footballing educations. After finishing his playing career with Eik Tonsberg he took over as club coach, enjoying three successful seasons. From the early 1990s he was appointed assistant and head coach of different national youth teams by the Norwegian FA. He had considerable success with the Under-23s, and when his mentor, Egil Olsen, was asked for advice by the FA about his successor as national coach, he had no hesitation in pointing to Semb.

It did not take long for the new man to witness how the media's attitudes towards him swung depending on results. But he is a cool and eloquent figure, and had few difficulties tackling the situations that arose.

What was more important was that his players responded to him, and the points lost in those initial home matches were rescued away. Impressive displays in Slovenia (2-1), Greece (2-0), Georgia (4-1) and Albania (2-1) took Norway to the top of Group 2. When, finally, Semb's boys started to win at home, the players had put themselves in an ideal position before this autumn's final three matches.

The coach does not need to be reminded, however, about what happened in 1996, when Norway were in the same position as this year. They were 1-0 up against the Czech Republic, with three points seemingly in the bag and qualification certain. But the team lost their way and conceded the goal that ruined it all. That must not be allowed to happen again in the last two home matches, against Greece and Slovenia.

As goalkeeper Frode Grodas got too little first-team football with Tottenham and Schalke, he put himself in an impossible position as far as selection for the national team was concerned. Everton's Thomas Myhre stepped in, and made the jersey his own. Frode Olsen of Stabaek had to deputise on a couple of occasions last season when Myhre was injured, and with these two Norway are well covered in this position.

Injuries to central defenders Ronny Johnsen and Henning Berg, both of Manchester United, have given Rosenborg defenders Erik Hoftun and Bjorn Otto Bragstad the chance to shine, and they have been just as effective as the more famous exiles.

Andre Bergdolmo has been a revelation at left-back, having gained much experience by playing for Rosenborg in the Champions League. This enables Semb to use Vegard Heggem of Liverpool as a wide midfielder.

Stalwart Kjetil Rekdal of Hertha Berlin is still captain and a key defensive central midfielder, but, due to injury, Staale Solbakken had to deputise in a couple of matches last term. Solbakken, a failure with Wimbledon, was voted Player of the Year in Denmark, where he is now with AaB Aalborg.

Cool...Nils Johan Semb

In the 4-5-1 formation that Semb prefers to use, he has an abundance of attacking midfielders to choose from. Instead of using Steffen Iversen as a striker, as Tottenham do, Semb normally plays him as an attacking midfielder, to great effect. From this withdrawn position he has scored some vital goals.

With Tore Andre Flo as the lone striker, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has mostly had to settle for a wide attacking role in midfield. But when Flo was out injured, Solskjaer exploited the situation to the full, scoring two great goals away to Greece in March and making it clear in the media after that performance that he was certainly going to fight for the forward position.

With regular League scorers such as Andreas Lund of Molde and John Carew, recently transferred to Rosenborg from Valerenga, also available, Semb should have no shortage of fire-power up front.

SEMB'S SQUAD

NAME	CLUB	BORN
Goalkeepers		
Thomas Myhre	Everton	16.10.73
Frode Olsen	Stabaek	12.10.67
Defenders		
Henning Berg	Manchester Utd	01.09.69
Andre Bergdolmo	Rosenborg	13.10.71
Bjorn Otto Bragstad	Rosenborg	05.01.71
Alf Inge Haaland	Leeds	23.11.72
Vegard Heggem	Liverpool	13.07.75
Erik Hoftun	Rosenborg	03.03.69
Ronny Johnsen	Manchester Utd	10.06.69
Tore Pedersen	Wimbledon	29.09.69
Midfielders		
Oyvind Leonhardsen	Tottenham	17.08.70
Erik Mykland	Panathinaikos	21.07.71
Kjetil Rekdal	Hertha Berlin	06.11.68
Vidar Riseth	Celtic	21.04.72
Petter Rudi	Sheffield Wed	07.09.73
Staale Solbakken	AaB Aalborg	27.02.68
Roar Strand	Rosenborg	02.02.70
Forwards		
John Carew	Rosenborg	05.09.79
Tore Andre Flo	Chelsea	15.06.73
Steffen Iversen	Tottenham	10.11.76
Ole Gunnar Solskjaer	Manchester Utd	26.02.73

EURO 2000 QUALIFIERS

Group 1

05.09.98 .....Wales Italy.....0-2
05.09.98 .....Belarus-Denmark 0-0
10.10.98 .....Italy-Switzerland.....2-0
10.10.98 .....Denmark-Wales 1-2
14.10.98 .....Wales-Belarus.....3-2
14.10.98 .....Switzerland-Denmark 1-1
27.03.99 .....Belarus-Switzerland 0-1
27.03.99 .....Denmark-Italy 1-2
31.03.99 .....Switzerland-Wales.....2-0
31.03.99 .....Italy-Belarus.....1-1
05.06.99 .....Italy-Wales 4-0
05.06.99 .....Denmark-Belarus.....1-0
09.06.99 .....Switzerland-Italy.....0-0
09.06.99 .....Wales-Denmark 0-2
04.09.99 .....Belarus-Wales
04.09.99 .....Denmark-Switzerland
08.09.99 .....Switzerland-Belarus
08.09.99 .....Italy-Denmark
09.10.99 .....Wales-Switzerland
09.10.99 .....Belarus-Italy

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	6	4	2	0	11	2	14
Denmark	6	2	2	2	6	5	8
Switzerland	5	2	2	1	4	3	8
Wales	6	2	0	4	5	13	6
Belarus	5	0	2	3	3	6	2

Group 2

05.09.98 .....Georgia-Albania 1-0
06.09.98 .....Greece-Slovenia.....2-2
06.09.98 .....Norway-Latvia.....1-3
10.10.98 .....Slovenia-Norway.....1-2
10.10.98 .....Latvia-Georgia.....1-0
14.10.98 .....Norway-Albania 2-2
14.10.98 .....Greece-Georgia 3-0
14.10.98 .....Slovenia-Latvia 1-0
18.11.98 .....Albania-Greece 0-0
27.03.99 .....Greece-Norway 0-2
27.03.99 .....Georgia-Slovenia.....1-1
31.03.99 .....Slovenia-Albania .....Postp.
31.03.99 .....Latvia-Greece.....0-0
28.04.99 .....Latvia-Albania 0-0
28.04.99 .....Georgia-Norway 1-4
30.05.99 .....Norway-Georgia 1-0
05.06.99 .....Albania-Norway 1-2
05.06.99 .....Georgia-Greece 1-2
05.06.99 .....Latvia-Slovenia 1-2
09.06.99 .....Albania-Slovenia 0-1
09.06.99 .....Greece-Latvia.....1-2
18.08.99 .....Slovenia-Albania
04.09.99 .....Norway-Greece
04.09.99 .....Albania-Latvia
04.09.99 .....Slovenia-Georgia
08.09.99 .....Greece-Albania
08.09.99 .....Norway-Slovenia
08.09.99 .....Georgia-Latvia
09.10.99 .....Albania-Georgia
09.10.99 .....Slovenia-Greece
09.10.99 .....Latvia-Norway

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	7	5	1	1	14	8	16
Slovenia	6	3	2	1	8	6	11
Latvia	7	3	2	2	7	5	11
Greece	7	2	3	2	8	7	9
Georgia	7	1	1	5	4	12	4
Albania	6	0	3	3	3	6	3

Group 3

05.09.98 .....Finland-Moldova 3-2
05.09.98 .....Turkey-Northern Ireland.....3-0
10.10.98 .....Turkey-Germany 1-0
10.10.98 .....Northern Ireland-Finland.....1-0
14.10.98 .....Moldova-Germany.....1-3
14.10.98 .....Turkey-Finland.....1-3
18.11.98 .....Northern Ireland-Moldova.....2-2
27.03.99 .....Northern Ireland-Germany 0-3
27.03.99 .....Turkey-Moldova 2-0
31.03.99 .....Germany-Finland 2-0
31.03.99 .....Moldova-Northern Ireland.....0-0
04.06.99 .....Germany-Moldova.....6-1
05.06.99 .....Finland-Turkey.....2-4
09.06.99 .....Moldova-Finland 0-0
04.09.99 .....Finland-Germany
04.09.99 .....Northern Ireland-Turkey
08.09.99 .....Germany-Northern Ireland
08.09.99 .....Moldova-Turkey
09.10.99 .....Germany-Turkey
09.10.99 .....Finland-Northern Ireland

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	5	4	0	1	11	5	12
Germany	5	4	0	1	14	3	12
Finland	6	2	1	3	8	10	7
N Ireland	5	1	2	2	3	8	5
Moldova	7	0	3	4	6	16	3

Group 4

05.09.98 .....Armenia-Andorra 3-1
05.09.98 .....Ukraine-Russia.....3-2
05.09.98 .....Iceland-France 1-1
10.10.98 .....Andorra-Ukraine.....0-2
10.10.98 .....Russia-France.....2-3
10.10.98 .....Armenia-Iceland.....0-0
14.10.98 .....Ukraine-Armenia.....2-0
14.10.98 .....France-Andorra 2-0
14.10.98 .....Iceland-Russia 1-0
27.03.99 .....Andorra-Iceland 0-2
27.03.99 .....France-Ukraine 0-0
27.03.99 .....Armenia-Russia 0-3
31.03.99 .....Ukraine-Iceland.....1-1
31.03.99 .....Russia-Andorra 6-1
31.03.99 .....France-Armenia 2-0
05.06.99 .....Ukraine-Andorra.....4-0
05.06.99 .....France-Russia 2-3
05.06.99 .....Iceland-Armenia.....2-0
09.06.99 .....Andorra-France 0-1
09.06.99 .....Russia-Iceland 1-0
09.06.99 .....Armenia-Ukraine.....0-0
04.09.99 .....Ukraine-France
04.09.99 .....Iceland-Andorra
04.09.99 .....Russia-Armenia
08.09.99 .....Andorra-Russia
08.09.99 .....Iceland-Ukraine
08.09.99 .....Armenia-France
09.10.99 .....France-Iceland
09.10.99 .....Russia-Ukraine
09.10.99 .....Andorra-Armenia

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	7	4	3	0	12	3	15
France	7	4	2	1	11	6	14
Russia	7	4	0	3	17	10	12
Iceland	7	3	3	1	7	3	12
Armenia	7	1	2	4	3	10	5
Andorra	7	0	0	7	2	20	0

Group 5

05.09.98 .....Sweden-England.....2-1
06.09.98 .....Bulgaria-Poland 0-3
10.10.98 .....Poland-Luxembourg.....3-0
10.10.98 .....England-Bulgaria 0-0
14.10.98 .....Bulgaria-Sweden 0-1
14.10.98 .....Luxembourg-England.....0-3
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GROUP 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	5	4	1	0	6	1	13
Poland	6	4	0	2	12	6	12
England	6	2	3	1	8	4	9
Bulgaria	6	1	2	3	3	7	5
Luxembourg	5	0	0	5	2	13	0

Group 6

05.09.98 .....Austria-Israel 1-1
05.09.98 .....Cyprus-Spain 3-2
10.10.98 .....Cyprus-Austria 0-3
10.10.98 .....San Marino-Israel 0-5
14.10.98 .....San Marino-Austria 1-4
14.10.98 .....Israel-Spain.....1-2
18.11.98 .....San Marino-Cyprus 0-1
10.02.99 .....Cyprus-San Marino 4-0
27.03.99 .....Spain-Austria 9-0
28.03.99 .....Israel-Cyprus.....3-0
31.03.99 .....San Marino-Spain 0-6
28.04.99 .....Austria-San Marino 7-0
05.06.99 .....Spain-San Marino 9-0
06.06.99 .....Israel-Austria 5-0
04.09.99 .....Austria-Spain
05.09.99 .....Cyprus-Israel
08.09.99 .....Israel-San Marino
08.09.99 .....Spain-Cyprus
09.10.99 .....Spain-Israel
10.10.99 .....Austria-Cyprus

GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	5	4	0	1	28	4	12
Israel	5	3	1	1	15	3	10
Austria	6	3	1	2	15	16	10
Cyprus	5	3	0	2	8	8	9
San Marino	7	0	0	7	1	36	0

Group 7

02.09.98 .....Romania-Liechtenstein.....7-0
05.09.98 .....Slovakia-Azerbaijan 3-0
06.09.98 .....Hungary-Portugal.....0-1
10.10.98 .....Portugal-Romania 0-1
10.10.98 .....Liechtenstein-Slovakia.....0-4
10.10.98 .....Azerbaijan-Hungary 0-4
14.10.98 .....Hungary-Romania 1-1
14.10.98 .....Slovakia-Portugal.....0-3
14.10.98 .....Liechtenstein-Azerbaijan 2-1
26.03.99 .....Portugal-Azerbaijan 7-0
27.03.99 .....Romania-Slovakia 0-0
27.03.99 .....Hungary-Liechtenstein.....5-0
31.03.99 .....Slovakia-Hungary.....0-0
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31.03.99 .....Azerbaijan-Romania.....0-1
05.06.99 .....Portugal-Slovakia.....1-0
05.06.99 .....Romania-Hungary 2-0
05.06.99 .....Azerbaijan-Liechtenstein 4-0
09.06.99 .....Hungary-Slovakia.....0-1
09.06.99 .....Portugal-Liechtenstein.....8-0
09.06.99 .....Romania-Azerbaijan.....4-0
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04.09.99 .....Slovakia-Romania
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08.09.99 .....Slovakia-Liechtenstein
08.09.99 .....Hungary-Azerbaijan
09.10.99 .....Liechtenstein-Romania
09.10.99 .....Azerbaijan-Slovakia
10.10.99 .....Portugal-Hungary

GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	7	6	0	1	27	2	18
Romania	7	5	2	0	16	1	17
Slovakia	7	3	2	2	8	4	11
Hungary	7	2	2	3	11	7	8
Azerbaijan	7	1	0	6	5	21	3
Liechtenstein	7	1	0	6	2	34	3

Group 8

05.09.98 .....Rep Ireland-Croatia.....2-0
06.09.98 .....Macedonia-Malta 4-0
10.10.98 .....Malta-Croatia 1-4
14.10.98 .....Rep Ireland-Malta 5-0
14.10.98 .....Croatia-Macedonia.....3-2
18.11.98 .....Malta-Macedonia 1-2
18.11.98 .....Yugoslavia-Rep Ireland 1-0
10.02.98 .....Malta-Yugoslavia 0-3
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31.03.99 .....Croatia-Malta.....Postp.
31.03.99 .....Yugoslavia-Macedonia .....Postp.
05.06.99 .....Macedonia-Croatia.....1-1
05.06.99 .....Rep Ireland-Yugoslavia.....Postp.
08.06.99 .....Yugoslavia-Malta 4-1
09.06.99 .....Rep Ireland-Macedonia.....1-0
18.08.99 .....Yugoslavia-Croatia
21.08.99 .....Croatia-Malta
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08.09.99 .....Malta-Rep Ireland
08.09.99 .....Macedonia-Yugoslavia
10.10.99 .....Macedonia-Rep Ireland
10.10.99 .....Croatia-Yugoslavia

GROUP 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	3	3	0	0	8	1	9
Rep of Ireland	4	3	0	1	8	1	9
Croatia	4	2	1	1	8	6	7
Macedonia	5	2	1	2	9	6	7
Malta	6	0	0	6	3	22	0

Group 9

04.06.98 .....Estonia-Faroe Islands 5-0
19.08.98 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Faroe Is.....1-0
05.09.98 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina Estonia 1-1
05.09.98 .....Lithuania-Scotland.....0-0
06.09.98 .....Faroe Islands-Czech Republic.....0-1
10.10.98 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Czech Rep.....1-3
10.10.98 .....Lithuania-Faroe Islands 0-0
10.10.98 .....Scotland-Estonia.....3-2
14.10.98 .....Lithuania-Bosnia-Herzegovina.....4-2
14.10.98 .....Scotland-Faroe Islands 2-1
14.10.98 .....Czech Republic-Estonia 4-1
27.03.99 .....Czech Republic-Lithuania 2-0
27.03.99 .....Scotland-Bosnia-Herzegovina .....Postp.
31.03.99 .....Lithuania-Estonia 1-2
31.03.99 .....Scotland-Czech Republic 1-2
05.06.99 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Lithuania.....2-0
05.06.99 .....Estonia-Czech Republic 0-2
05.06.99 .....Faroe Islands-Scotland 1-1
09.06.99 .....Estonia-Lithuania 1-2
09.06.99 .....Faroe Islands-Bosnia-Herzegovina .2-2
09.06.99 .....Czech Republic-Scotland 3-2
04.09.99 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Scotland
04.09.99 .....Faroe Islands-Estonia
04.09.99 .....Lithuania-Czech Republic
08.09.99 .....Czech Republic-Bosnia-Herzegovina
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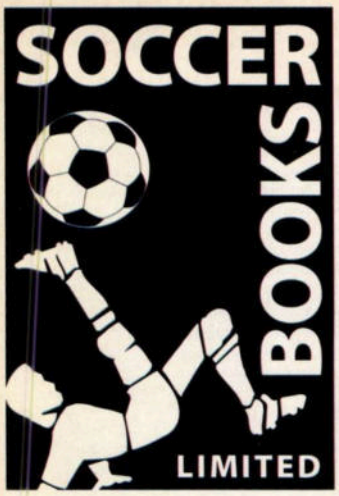
09.10.99 .....Estonia-Bosnia-Herzegovina
09.10.99 .....Czech Republic-Faroe Islands
09.10.99 .....Scotland-Lithuania

GROUP 9

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CZECH REP*	7	7	0	0	17	5	21
Scotland	6	2	2	2	9	9	8
Bosnia-Herz.	6	2	2	2	9	10	8
Lithuania	7	2	2	3	7	9	8
Estonia	7	2	1	4	12	13	7
Faroe Islands	7	0	3	4	4	12	3

**Qualified for finals*

● The nine group winners and the best second-placed side** qualify automatically for the finals, to be held in Holland and Belgium from June 10 to July 2, 2000. The other eight runners-up will be drawn to play in four two-leg play-offs, the winners of which will also qualify. These ties will be played on Nov 13/14 (1st leg) and Nov 17 (2nd leg).
**The best second-placed side will be the one who won most points from the games against the teams finishing first, third and fourth in their group. If points totals from these matches are equal, goal difference, then number of goals scored, from these same games will be used to separate the teams.
● When teams finish level on points in the qualifying groups, position will be determined by the points gained in the matches between the countries concerned. If they are still level, goal difference and then away goals from those head-to-head games will be used to separate them.



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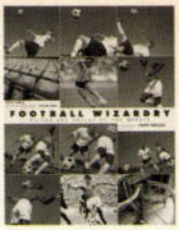

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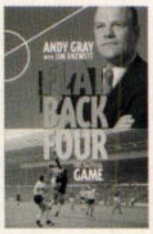

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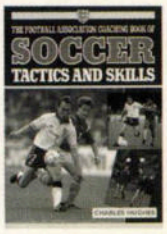

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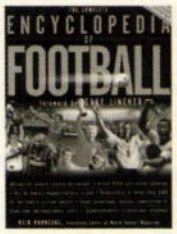

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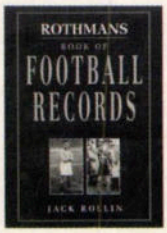

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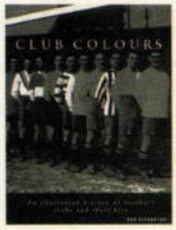

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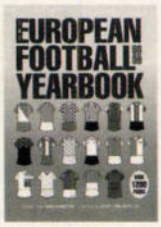

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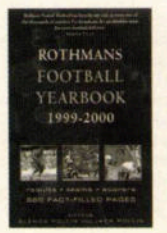

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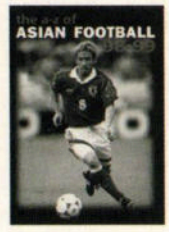

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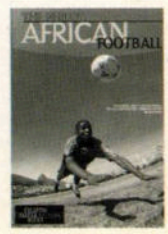

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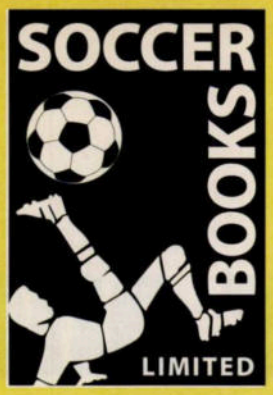

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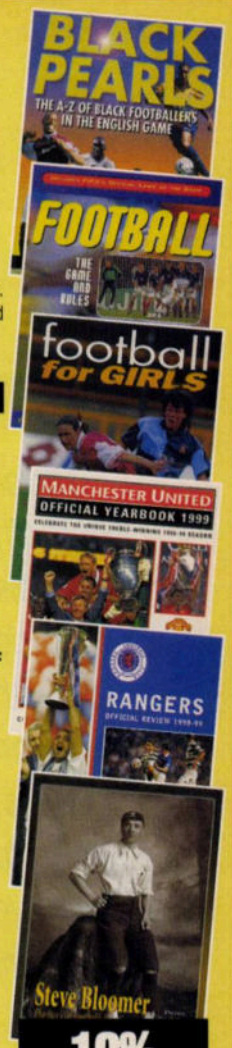

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'Milan: stronger and

Oliver Bierhoff, entering his second season with the Italian champions, talks to Dominique Antognoni

WORLD SOCCER: The Milan squad has remained more or less the same, the one important newcomer being Shevchenko. What do you make of him?
OLIVER BIERHOFF: He seems a brilliant addition. He's a very modest lad – one of us – and doesn't consider himself a superstar; that's important. But while Milan have taken on Shevchenko, the other teams have made equally strong buys: Inter have Vieri, Lazio have Veron, Parma have Amoroso. It's amazing – these are things that only happen in the Italian championship. Every year, the teams just get stronger.

And the Vieri-Ronaldo pairing?
Very impressive – scary. They are the world's top strikers, but we at Milan can handle it.

What do you reckon to Vieri? Every year he changes his club, every year his price-tag goes up.
In today's market-place, he's doing a good thing to change teams – today everything in football is about change. Personally speaking, I've always gone for continuity in my career. It's just a matter of choice.

How will Milan do this year?
It'll be a more relaxed Milan, more confident, more aware of its power – a Milan that has a collective, group strength. Like last year, in fact.

This year, your president, Berlusconi, and coach, Zaccheroni, wanted to have a Milan side that was almost entirely made up of Italians. What do you make of that?
I agree with them. It's difficult for a foreigner to acclimatise, even off the pitch, especially if you don't want to get integrated. Having too many foreigners can cause problems, and Milan have done well to nip the trend in the bud.

And you, what are your hopes in your second season with the rossoneri?
I would like to stay in the Champions League, I would like to be a crucial part in all Milan's games. I've got an advantage this year – I know the ropes, and I know, more or less, how everything works here.

So what about last year? How did Milan manage to win the title? What did they have that Lazio didn't?
We were relaxed and very keen to win. We were relaxed because we'd already met our aim – qualifying for the Champions League. The enthusiasm to win came from our fight-back, which had seemed unlikely just two months earlier.

When did you realise you were part of a team that could win the scudetto?
After we won against Parma we realised what we were capable of. We always knew we could play at the highest level, but we needed absolute proof, and we got that at Udinese, the week after. [Milan won 5-1.] That's when we really got the taste for it.

'This season it'll be a more relaxed Milan, more confident, more aware of its power'

But your Milan career got off to a rather controversial start.
Yes, there was plenty of controversy, and too many battling egos. There were some who said that Zaccheroni directed everything towards me, that the only tactic was to 'get the ball to Oliver's head'. That's not how it was. And I remember the first lunch at Milanello. At Albertini, Costacurta and Maldini's table there was a spare place, the one Desailly had left empty. It was always said that I sat down at the table of the 'senators', but it's simply that there was a spare place and I asked if I could sit there.

After the first few games and with all that controversy, you weren't happy...
No – because I was seeing things that just shouldn't have been happening.

Like what?
Like realising that not everyone had faith in my potential. At Udinese, I was believed in 100 per cent – they knew that if I got the ball, the match could be won. With Milan, that wasn't the case; plenty of times I wasn't given service, so I wasn't able to help the team. So they had to understand from the start that if they helped me, I could help the team.

Then my lack of goals was made into a huge drama by the press, but I've always done my best for them, and I've made so many assists.

Then there was a point in the second part of the season when you were being whistled by your own supporters, like in the game against Parma.
Yes, I admit at that point I felt I'd reached rock bottom. Zaccheroni did the right thing in leaving me alone in the dressing-room during half-time. It would have been even better to not have made me play, I wasn't in the greatest form.

After two internationals, I was exhausted. And up till then I had played all the championship games, for the whole 90 minutes. I was shattered, I didn't feel too well, and on top of all that, I felt so responsible. I was paying for the fact there were many problems with the team at the start of the season. I wanted to help the team and, above all, Zaccheroni.

How do you think your season went?
I'd just like to point out that nobody has scored more goals for Milan than me since Van Basten's days. My game can be misinterpreted, even by the fans, but that's because of the press. I'm not a spectacular striker – I don't have Ronaldo's speed, Del Piero's dribbling abilities, Batistuta's power. I score simple goals.

The greatest compliment anyone can give me is to say that I score goals. I'm a crucial player, or rather, I am when I score. I want to be precise about this: the players who are called spectacular, how many assists have they made?

Quite apart from my goals, I have made seven or eight clear assists. At Udinese it was different, I was seen differently, because there I represented a turning point in the history of a team

better'

that after so many years was returning to the big time.

Zac knows me well, he knows what I am capable of, knows I am always useful, and having him as a trainer has helped in certain ways, above all at the start of the season. After the game against Parma, he was very straight with me, helping me get certain ideas out of my head, certain responsibilities that did not belong to me.

George Weah wasn't happy to have to play for you.
He didn't have to play for me – but with me. I know he wanted to play a central role up front but Zac was convinced he'd be better going wide. The truth is that at the start there were some tactical misunderstandings, and it wasn't clearly understood what Zac was asking of the attackers. Then things got better and now George is very important because of his speed. He brings great depth. Now with Boban in behind the forwards we're doing better, we're more dynamic.

How important has Zaccheroni been in all this?
Extremely. Milan, for two years running, had players who were giving less than they are capable of. Zac knew how to give them back their enthusiasm. And he was also brave enough to recognise that he must allow greater freedom to Boban, Leonardo and Weah. Before the game against Fiorentina, he asked us how we preferred to play. He told us that he preferred to have three up front, but then opted for two with one behind.

Some games were really not good to watch, were they?
No, the one against Roma, for instance. Nothing worked – the midfielders were too far away from the forwards, so I had no service.

For the Lazio game, everyone said they had their strongest team, then they lost. What do you say to that?
I'll just say, regarding sport at least, I hate to see Vieri cry.

What do you make of Vieri?
He's brilliant, but everyone has known that since the World Cup, where he really decided matches.

Payback time

Mega TV deals have put Serie A top of the pile again, says Keir Radnedge

ITALIAN football believes it is playing catch-up this season. Money is flooding in from the digital television and pay-per-view gamblers and the clubs have spent much of it already. Hence five of the world's top 10 most expensive transfers of all time have been realised this summer by Serie A clubs.

"Now we have caught up again financially with Spain and England," says Juventus executive director Roberto Bettega. But while foreign footballers have been flooding in and around the championship, the same cannot, intriguingly, be said for coaches.

Only two trainers are foreigners – and one, Lazio's Swede, Sven Goran Eriksson, has been working in Serie A so long (he arrived originally at Roma in 1984) that he virtually counts as an honorary Italian.

As for Uruguayan Oscar Washington Tabarez, he may have fluffed his lines but he is no stranger, as he proves by returning for a second spell in charge at Cagliari.

Otherwise the top coaches are all of the home-grown variety, which surely says a great deal for the Italian system. Club presidents are not xenophobic – they have proved that in the player transfer department. But almost all recognise that the best coaches are those who have grown up in Italian football, and breathed in its unique tactical and technical demands from a young age.

Marcello Lippi at Inter, Giovanni Trapattoni at Fiorentina, Fabio Capello at Roma plus fast-emerging Alberto Zaccheroni at Milan and Alberto Malesani at Parma are among the finest coaches in the world – not just Italy.

Azeglio Vicini, the former Italy boss who is president of the trainers' association, took a grim satisfaction from the disastrous experience of David Platt at Sampdoria. "Coaches who work in Italian football must be qualified for a very particular profession," he says. "The Italian League is the most demanding in the world for a coach. It takes a very special mentality and character for a man not merely to survive but to achieve success."

The statistical balance of probability is thus against a foreigner winning the League title. Tabarez will be delighted if he can raise Cagliari to the fringes of the UEFA Cup places. Eriksson, of course, after the enormous spending sprees of Lazio owner Sergio Cragnotti these past two years, is under the greater pressure.

Winning the Cup-winners Cup last season was Eriksson's safety blanket after the late mistakes that allowed Milan to sneak through and pip them to the scudetto. But Cragnotti will not pardon another failure. If Lazio do not win the League then Eriksson will be leaving for pastures new.

One might even guess that if Lazio are not threatening to win the title by mid-season, then the Swede may be asked to take an early holiday.

When it comes to assessing likely champions, a shrewd judge might not look any further than Inter. It is inevitable that, given their pedigree and playing class, the likes of Milan, Parma, Lazio and co will become ensnared in long, tiring, demanding European campaigns. Inter will not have that distraction. Ronaldo, fit again at last, hopefully, and world-record signing Christian Vieri will be given the freedom of Serie A to wreak as much havoc as they like. They could have no better coach than Lippi to guide them in their quest.

Milan missed out on Europe last season and profited by winning the League, unencumbered. After a decade of championship failures, their city rivals will never have a better chance to do the same.

World-record buy...Inter's Christian Vieri

Team by team, by Keir Radnedge

BARI

Last season's draw specialists (15 in 34 games) will probably spend another year struggling to stay clear of the relegation zone. Coach: Eugenio Fascetti.

BOLOGNA

One of Italy's great old clubs will miss the physical presence of Kennet Andersson, now at Lazio, in attack – particularly since their bid for Norway's John Carew collapsed. Coach: Sergio Buso (new).

CAGLIARI

The sale of striker Roberto Muzzi to Udinese may have left Cagliari vulnerable. Returning coach Tabarez will have his work cut out keeping them clear of danger. Coach: Oscar Washington Tabarez (new).

FIORENTINA

Fiorentina led the League for the first half of last season, then slipped down to third after Edmundo began agitating for a transfer back to Brazil. Gabriel Batistuta was happy to stay once it was clear that Fiorentina would qualify for the Champions League. Third should be the limit of their ambitions. Coach: Giovanni Trapattoni.

INTER

The partnership of Vieri and Ronaldo promises lots of championship-winning goals. But new coach Lippi may find himself kept busy trying to sort out a rebuilt defence now that veteran Giuseppe Bergomi has retired. Inter will not suffer the tiring distractions of a European campaign. Coach: Marcello Lippi (new).

JUVENTUS

Many Juve fans worry and wonder whether Carlo Ancelotti is really the right coach for *La Vecchia Signora* (The Old Lady). They suspect he wants a rather more dour football style than the fans. But if Ancelotti comes up with a winning brand, they will quickly forgive him. The prospects look brighter than the last, disappointing season when Juve only scraped into Europe via the InterToto Cup. Alex Del Piero made his comeback in that competition after a serious knee injury and French World Cup winner Zinedine Zidane promises that "my knee is fully recovered and I have got my head straight". Juve also operated effectively in the transfer market, replacing the backbone of the team with the impressive captures of Van der Sar (goal), Oliseh (central midfield) and Kovacevic (centre-forward). Coach: Carlo Ancelotti.

LAZIO

Will this be the year Lazio reward president Sergio Cragnotti for all his big spending with the League title? The arrivals of Veron, Simone Inzaghi, Simeone and Sensini have stiffened the backbone of the team, and the continuing presence of Marcelo Salas in attack means Christian Vieri may not be missed. But the fans will grow restless quickly if firepower proves a problem. Coach: Sven Goran Eriksson.

LECCE

Newly promoted but may not last long. Forward Emiliano Biliotti says that the new campaign represents "an important opportunity" for himself and his team-mates. To earn a transfer somewhere else, one assumes he means. Coach: Alberto Cavasin (new).

MILAN

Surprise champions last season – owing much to the failings under pressure of first Fiorentina, then Lazio. A repeat looks unlikely. Coach Zaccheroni may find he has his hands full trying to keep his attacking stars happy – particularly now that newly-arrived Ukrainian Andrii Shevchenko is threatening to replace George Weah as Oliver Bierhoff's partner. Coach: Alberto Zaccheroni.

PARMA

As usual, Parma have been busy in the transfer market, adding to the quality in the squad. Holding on to Lilian Thuram was a major coup. The most intriguing question is whether the erratic Argentine forward, Ariel Ortega, can succumb to club discipline and emerge as the inspirational match-winner he has always threatened to be. Ortega refreshed his batteries in a holiday back home in Ledesma, some 900 miles north of Buenos Aires. His old friends, he says, "still want to play football though they are all fat – and they are all my fans." Whether Ortega can give them something to be proud of remains in question. Coach: Alberto Malesani.

PERUGIA

Finished one place and one point above the relegation zone last season. May not be so lucky this time. Coach: Carlo Mazzone (new).

PIACENZA

Veteran coach Gigi Simoni – sacked in mid-season by Inter – makes his comeback at the wrong end of the table. With Simone Inzaghi not replaced in attack, Simoni will lean heavily on an old-fashioned catenaccio to keep the rest of Serie A at bay. Coach: Gigi Simoni (new).

REGGINA

Davide Possar
striker with p
Reggina, has
poster of Roberto Baggio
his bedroom wall – never
that they would ever line
one another. But provincia
will not last long in Serie A
Franco Colomba (new).

ROMA

New coach Fa
Capello says h
mind that few rate Roma as serious title contenders. He says: "We will surprise a lot of people. We have a lot of ability and a hunger for success." Vincenzo Montella from Sampdoria is the big-money buy up front, while Capello persuaded Marco Delvecchio to turn down Chelsea. Coach: Fabio Capello (new).

TORINO

Promoted Torino's fans will, as usual, expect much too much of their club on their return to Serie A. Emiliano Mondonico was rewarded for promotion with a contract extension, and the defence has been strengthened with the arrivals of Brazilian veteran Andre Cruz and a variety of other nationalities. Pierluigi Lentini, once the world's most expensive player at £13million, is back in attack for one last opportunity in the top flight. Coach: Emiliano Mondonico.

UDINESE

Udinese were one of the surprises of last season, when they finished a commendable seventh. Whether a team lacking in star names can reach the same level this term appears doubtful. Amoroso and his goals will be badly missed up front. Roberto Muzzi from Cagliari is not quite the same class. Coach: Luigi De Canio (new).

VENEZIA

Venezia aim to stifle the opposition with at least five men in midfield. The Japanese, Nanami, is an interesting signing though he lacks the charisma of Perugia's Nakata. He is also unlikely to fill adequately the gap left by Alvaro Recoba's return to Inter. Coach: Luciano Spalletti (new).

VERONA

Tactics may change now that Verona are back in Serie A. They

Gennaro Gattuso (Milan)
Combative right-sided midfielder who impressed last season with Salernitana.

Marco Di Vaio (Parma)
Pre-season injuries to Crespo and Amoroso could give £10m Di Vaio an early chance to shine for Parma.

Giuliano Giannichedda (Udinese)
Intelligent defensive midfielder who is staying in Udine despite overtures from Inter, Milan and Juventus.

Andrea Pirlo (Inter)
The heir to Baggio's mantle, but will he get a game at Inter?

Simone Inzaghi (Lazio)
Pippo's little brother – and potentially even better. Scored 15 goals with home town club Piacenza last season.

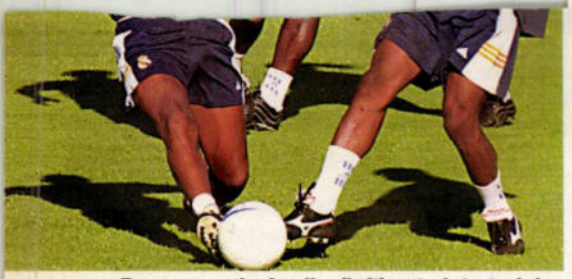
Dominique Antognoni

Enter Anelka...

But how long will it be before his brothers are talking terms again, asks Kevin Connolly

REAL MADRID have printed 60,000 replica shirts with Nicolas Anelka's name on the back in the hope that the Frenchman will become the new hero of the Ultra Sur supporters. And since his arrival from Arsenal the club have been selling match tickets like there is no tomorrow.

Without doubt, Anelka has been the big talking point over the summer, no matter what other players have been coming or going. Yet he is little more than a boy – not 21 until next March – and he is influenced by his two brothers to what some people might consider an unhealthy degree. Last month's World Soccer headlined his long-drawn-out transfer as 'The Saga of an Eternal Malcontent' and he seems to draw controversy like a dog draws fleas, as they might say in the dour Paris suburb of Trappes where he grew up.



Be prepared...Anelka (left) gets into training

So how long will it be before Nicolas Anelka is unhappy in Madrid, can't handle the press, can't get on in the dressing-room – and his brothers are talking deals again?

Remember that only three years ago Anelka, for all his precocious talent, was unhappy because he could not get into the first team at Paris Saint-Germain. He was spirited away by Arsenal in February 1997, and at Highbury, coach Arsene Wenger made him a star. Wenger's belief in Anelka's talent was famous. So was his patience with him.

At times Anelka tested Wenger, and his team-mates, to the limit. For instance, the coach had to use all his diplomatic skills after Anelka criticised Marc Overmars in the French press. Overmars, claimed Anelka, passed the ball only to his fellow Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp.

Wenger called the players together. He asked Anelka, in French, what he thought of Overmars. The reply was less than flattering. Wenger turned to Overmars and said, in English, that Anelka had no problems with him. Peace reigned – for a while.

But a few days before Anelka joined Real, Wenger asked him: "Will you ever actually acknowledge that Arsenal and I have influenced your career, even just a little bit?" Typically, Anelka stayed silent.

French colleagues Manu Petit, Patrick Vieira, Remi Garde and Gilles Grimandi all settled happily in London. Not Anelka. Stuck in his north London retreat in Edgware – alone, or in the company of brothers Claude and Didier – he brooded: about the English press, his team-mates and his future.

Claude and Didier were not there just to stop Nicolas from feeling homesick. They were his agents. The poor boys from Trappes had found their pot of gold.

Long before the summer transfer saga began, the rift between Arsenal and the Anelka family had started. Towards the end of Arsenal's 1997-98 Double season, I talked to a senior Highbury figure who had just come from a meeting with Claude Anelka. His comments were scathing.

Nicolas was under contract to Arsenal until 2003. But it was no secret towards the end of last season that he was looking for a big-money move. On May 12, Anelka set the ball on the roll that led to Madrid when he announced in French newspaper L'Equipe: "I don't want to stay at Arsenal. I'm fed up with it there." He blamed the English press. Although, as others have pointed out, if he thinks the English media is a monster, how will he cope with the infernal scrutiny perpetually trained on the stars of Real Madrid?

Initially, it seemed likely that he would return to France, with Marseille. Discussions were in progress for months. On May 23, however, Anelka announced: "I'm not going to Marseille." Enter Real, to the fury of Arsenal, who yelled 'illegal approach' – though Wenger now accepts Real's explanation.

Anelka, meanwhile, was said to want to play for Real – and seemed to close off another option by adding: "I don't like Italy."

The next twist came soon afterwards. Lazio, seeking a replacement for Christian Vieri, came looking. The Anelka clan, on holiday in the Caribbean, disdained the first approach. They called on Arsenal to cease negotiations.

Then, as Real's interest seemed to wane, Anelka changed his tune. "Lazio? Why not? They're as big a club as Real," he said, while telling Wenger he would not return to the Gunners.

Then it was Juventus who came on the scene, making a bigger bid than Lazio, as Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein told the Anelkas. But the family had made their minds up: Lazio had made a firm and lucrative contract offer. A pay day was looming. So Claude reacted angrily, jumping up and shouting: "You must sell my brother to Lazio."

The problem was the fee. Lazio did not want to pay over £20million. Arsenal wanted more. Suddenly, the stage was set for Real to come back and close a deal. They were prepared to offer £23m, a figure topped only by the £31m Inter paid Lazio for Vieri. The bid succeeded, and the transfer was completed on August 4.

"I'm very pleased," said the Real president, Lorenzo Sanz, to nobody's surprise. "Major clubs in Italy wanted Anelka. But he has come to us, the most expensive player in Spanish history."

Dein was less sanguine. "Sharks" was his description of Anelka's advisers. And, reflecting on the transfer and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's move from Leeds to Real's local rivals Atletico, the Arsenal vice-chairman said: "They have ridden roughshod over the rules of football and contracts. They have shown a total disregard of the game."

Dein warned: "Under the current legislation that exists in football, Nicolas Anelka can do exactly the same to Real Madrid."

It was significant that a key part in Arsenal's negotiations with Real served to reduce the commission the Spanish club paid to Claude and Didier to less than £2m.

At Real's Ciudad Deportivo training ground, Nicolas, now on three times his Highbury salary, addressed a press conference. "I've come here because Real are a much bigger club than Arsenal," he said. "Forget money. I want to be judged on my performances."

Where does that leave the Real team, and coach John Toshack? He – like Real's former Champions League-winning coach, Jupp Heynckes – is a disciplinarian. Not for him the laissez-faire regime of Guus Hiddink. Toshack has shown he will not be messed around. For all Clarence Seedorf's ability, Toshack is quite prepared to offload him unless he changes his attitude. How would Toshack react to any disruption from the Anelka quarter?

Toshack also has several other summer signings to integrate into the squad – attacking right-back Michel Salgado from Celta Vigo, defender Ivan Helguera (Espanyol), Cameroon midfielder Geremi Ndjitap, Colombian attacker Edwin Congo, the £10m Bosnian, Elvir Baljic (Fenerbahce), and Steve McManaman (Liverpool).

McManaman was not a Toshack signing. Neither was Anelka, since Sanz was the moving force behind the deal, despite caution from vice-president Juan Onleva.

Toshack had a formation in mind. He wanted to use the powerful Fernando Morientes as a lone target man, supported by Baljic and McManaman wide, with Spain's golden boy Raul breaking from midfield to become a second striker.

That scheme is now out of the window. Sanz will expect his record signing to start – though when is another question, because Anelka has missed a lot of pre-season training and needs to confirm his fitness.

The goals Morientes scored at the end of last season were crucial to getting Real into the Champions League. His place surely is as secure as any place can be in such circumstances. But talk around Bernabeu is of Real switching to 4-4-2 to accommodate Anelka. This not only forces Toshack to alter pre-season plans, it also means a change of tactics. Real always preferred a measured build-up, often with Fernando Hierro bringing the ball out from the back. But Anelka's greatest strength – despite his infuriating tendency to run offside – is his pace. To take advantage of that, Real have to play the ball over or through for Anelka to chase.

Picking the midfield four to provide the best service then becomes another headache for Toshack. Raul is certain to fill the central attacking midfield role; Fernando Redondo is the holding midfield player; Baljic was a Toshack signing, so the coach will want to include him. So if Seedorf (who was talking to Inter at press time) and Christian Karembeu stay, where will that leave McManaman? And with full-backs Salgado and Roberto Carlos bombing forward, Hierro and Helguera could have a lot of covering to do.

Such are the questions thrown up by Anelka's arrival at Bernabeu. Toshack has to answer them. Should things go wrong, anticipate angry scenes between president and coach…even if the president has been usurping the coach's responsibilities.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Miguel Angel Angulo (Valencia)
Originally a front-runner but now putting his pace and outstanding technique to excellent use as an attacking midfielder.

Gabri (Barcelona)
Influential member of the Spanish team who won the World Youth Cup this year. High-class midfielder with an abundance of vision and goalscoring nous.

Antonio Soldevilla (Espanyol)
Highly versatile and tactically-aware 20-year-old who can play stopper, as a defensive midfielder or at wing-back.

Victor (Deportivo La Coruna)
Bounced back in style last season at Racing Santander after being shown the door by his first club, Real Madrid. The brilliant right-sided midfielder was a prize capture by Deportivo.

Xavi (Barcelona)
Probably the most gifted of the rising Spanish generation. A born midfield general rightly likened to Barça team-mate Pep Guardiola.

Real man...Nicolas Anelka displays the club shirt

Team by team, by Jeff King

ALAVES

The Basque team start as relegation candidates. The club have Julio Salinas – at 37, the oldest player in Spain's First Division – but Gerard, impressive on loan last season, is back at Valencia.

ATHLETIC BILBAO

Luis Fernandez, who continues to be the most quotable and stroppiest coach in Spain, puts his faith in players who are are young, gifted and Spanish. Orbaiz was the major summer signing, and Oscar Vales is back from Celta, but Athletic are still struggling to rediscover the runners-up form of two years ago.

ATLETICO MADRID

New coach Claudio Ranieri, fresh from his success at Valencia, is the new star in town. The players bought during Arrigo Sacchi's disastrous reign have gone, and Juninho is unlikely to feature in the Ranieri game-plan (tight defence, competitive midfield, talent up front). The signing of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink will take the attacking burden off Jose Mari. Capdevila and Toni have arrived from Espanyol, although Toni faces a battle for the keeper's shirt from the incumbent, Molina. Paraguay defender Carlos Gamarra is the other major signing.

BARCELONA

The Van Gaal revolution continues. No new Dutchman, although Jari Litmanen has joined from Ajax. The Catalan connection is diminishing, with Celades, Oscar and Nadal sold off. Of the new signings, only Litmanen is likely to figure in the starting line-up. The Finn will play at the front of a midfield diamond, enabling Van Gaal to switch to his favoured 3-4-3 from last season's 2-3-2-3. All-round strength (£10m signing Dani will understudy Kluivert) makes the defending champions the firm favourites in the League, but success in the Champions League is arguably the higher priority.

BETIS

A blazing row between Alfonso and club president Lopera over a move to Real Madrid did not help preparations. Coach Carlos Griguel has put his players through a tough pre-season in a bid to avoid last season's disastrous start. Slovakian defender Miroslav Karhan was one of the few signings, but Ayala stays and at least Denilson does not have the world's-most-expensive-player tag weighing him down.

CELTA VIGO

Lots of changes, with some big losses (Penev retiring, Juan Sanchez to Valencia, Michel Salgado to Real Madrid) but some important arrivals: Celades (Barcelona), Gustavo Lopez (Zaragoza), Turdo (Independiente) and Benni McCarthy (Ajax). At least coach Victor Fernandez does not have to worry about the Jordi jinx. Jordi Cruyff's arrival last season coincided with the descent from Champions League contenders to the UEFA Cup place.

DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA

After leading the rush to sign foreigners two seasons ago, Deportivo have now gone the other way. Promising Spaniards Manel, Victor, Jaime, Cesar and Ivan Perez have all arrived, with Mustapha Hadji and Stephane Ziani leading the exodus. Roy Makaay and Slavisa Jokanovic, both signed from relegated Tenerife, start the season with a lot to prove.

ESPANYOL

If Miguel Angel Bielsa's team start this season as they finished the second half of the last campaign, they will be title contenders. Toni and Capdevila have been lost to Atletico but Argentinian defender Rotchen is a big signing from Independiente, promising keeper Mora arrives from Oviedo and Pochettino and Benitez have been persuaded to stay. Toni Velamazan, who made his debut for Barcelona under Johan Cruyff, has returned to the city from Extremadura.

MALAGA

Real Madrid Cast-offs United. Contreras, Rojas and Fernando Sanz (son of Real president Lorenzo) join former Ajax starlet Kiki Musampa in the arrivals lounge at the newly-promoted club. Striker Catanha was the top scorer in last season's Second Division. Malaga is a big football town, but the new boys could struggle.

MALLORCA

No Hector Cuper, no Dani, no Roa, no Marcelino, no chance of repeating last year's success. New coach, the Argentine Mario Gomez, has continued the club policy of signing low-profile Argentines. Quinteros (Argentinos Juniors) and Serrizuela (Lanus) are the latest to arrive. But by replacing the God-fearing goalkeeper Roa with the heavy metal-loving, guitar-playing Burgos, Mallorca have gone from one extreme to another.

NUMANCIA

The miracle team from Soria (population 33,000) who amazed everyone by gaining promotion to the top flight last season. An all-Spanish team coached by former international Andoni Goikoetxea now that the architect of their success, Miguel Lotina, has jumped ship for Osasuna.

OVIEDO

The club coaxed Luis Aragones out of retirement only to hear the veteran coach spend the summer voicing his concerns about the team's creaky defence – Cesar and Manel have gone to Deportivo and veteran captain Berto retired. But at least he still has Dely Valdes, whose goals will be crucial.

RACING SANTANDER

A struggle is on the cards after Victor was lost to Deportivo. Munitis, a recent cap for Spain, is staying – for now.

RAYO VALLECANO

A battle against relegation awaits for the classic 'elevator' team. US national goalkeeper Kasey Keller was the big signing by Madrid's third team.

REAL MADRID

The mystery team with so many new signings and so many questions to answer. The leading members of the 'Ferrari brigade' have been dispensed with (Suker, Mijatovic, Panucci), while another, Clarence Seedorf, may not be in Madrid for much longer. The arrivals are headed by Nicolas Anelka (Arsenal), Elvir Baljic (Fenerbahce), Ivan Helguera (Espanyol) and Julio Cesar (Valladolid). Matters are complicated by the fact that some signings (Geremi, Genclerbirligi) were sanctioned by coach John Toshack and others (Steve McManaman, Liverpool) pre-date Toshack's tenure. Interesting times, as ever, at the Bernabeu.

REAL SOCIEDAD

Disappointment last season, with no European action to look forward to this term. But the sale of Darko Kovacevic to Juventus for £13m was a great bit of business, especially as the Yugoslav's replacement, Victor Bonilla (£2.3m from Deportivo Cali), looks every bit as good.

SEVILLA

It's taken two years for one of Spain's great clubs to recover from the trauma of relegation. Now, thanks largely to Greek international midfielder Vassilis Tsartas, they're back. But Marcos Alonso's team, who were promoted through the play-offs, may find life tough back at the top. A host of new arrivals, mostly Uruguayan, are headed by Otero (Vicenza) and Zalayeta (Juventus).

VALENCIA

If any team is going to challenge Barcelona, it will be Hector Cuper's Valencia. The Cup-holders pulled off major summer signings by persuading Claudio Lopez and Mendieta to stay in the face of tempting offers from elsewhere. They have been joined by Oscar (Barcelona), Kili Gonzalez (Zaragoza) and Juan Sanchez (Celta). At Mallorca, Cuper enjoyed success on limited resources. At Valencia, the greater talent up front should serve his counter-attacking tactics admirably.

VALLADOLID

Mid-table last season but the loss of Brazilian defender Julio Cesar to Real Madrid is a blow. Even so, Croatian forward Alen Peternac is staying and he could form a useful partnership with Colombian Edwin Congo, on loan from Real Madrid.

ZARAGOZA

Terribly inconsistent last season, and they have done nothing in the close season to suggest this campaign will be any different. Kili Gonzalez and Gustavo Lopez have been sold, but Pier is back from Tenerife.

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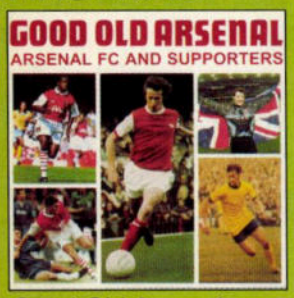
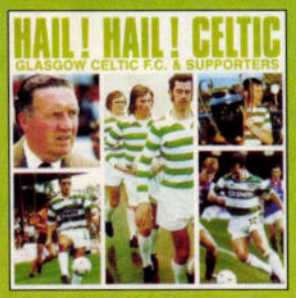


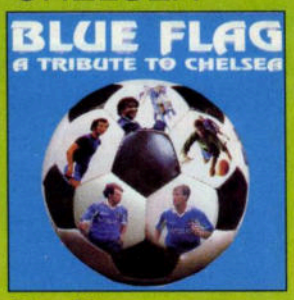
Good Old Arsenal

CELTIC



Hail! Hail! Celtic

CHELSEA

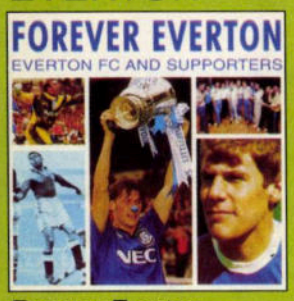


Blue Flag

ENGLAND

England's Glory

EVERTON



Forever Everton

KOP CHOIR

Liverpool's Football Sound

LIVERPOOL

This Is Anfield

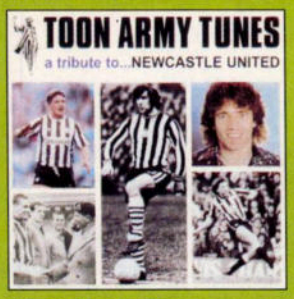
MAN. UNITED

Come On You Reds!

MIDDLESBROUGH

Up The Boro!

NEWCASTLE

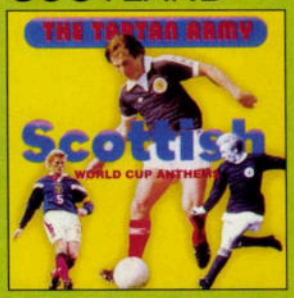


Toon Army Tunes

RANGERS

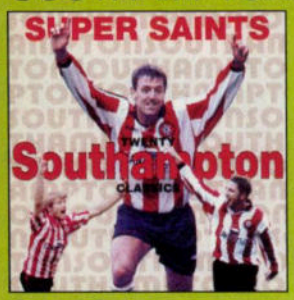
Ibrox Anthems

SCOTLAND



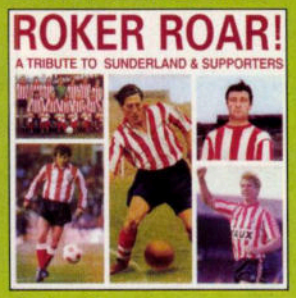
Scottish World Cup Anthems

SOUTHAMPTON



Super Saints

SUNDERLAND

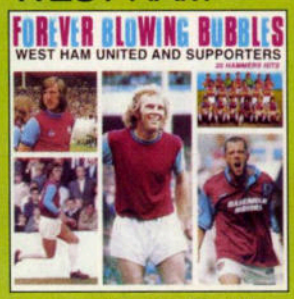


Roker Roar!

TOTTENHAM

The Cup Kings

WEST HAM



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AUSTRIA

Tues, June 29, 1999

FC Tirol v Rapid Wien

Wed, June 30

Salzburg v Lustenau
Bregenz v SV Ried
Linz ASK v Sturm Graz
Grazer AK v Austria Wien

Tues, July 6

Austria Wien v Salzburg

Wed, July 7

Lustenau v Linz ASK
SV Ried v Grazer AK
Rapid Wien v Bregenz
Sturm Graz v FC Tirol

Tues, July 13

Rapid Wien v Salzburg

Wed, July 14

Linz ASK v Austria Wien
Bregenz v Sturm Graz
FC Tirol v SV Ried
Grazer AK v Lustenau

Sat, July 17

Rapid Wien v Sturm Graz
Salzburg v Linz ASK

Wed, July 21

Sturm Graz v Grazer AK
Austria Wien v FC Tirol
Lustenau v Bregenz
SV Ried v Rapid Wien

Tues, July 27

FC Tirol v Linz ASK
Grazer AK v Salzburg
SV Ried v Lustenau

Sat, July 31

Austria Wien v Rapid Wien

Tues, August 3

Salzburg v Bregenz
Lustenau v FC Tirol
Sturm Graz v SV Ried
Linz ASK v Grazer AK

Fri, August 6

FC Tirol v Grazer AK

Sat, August 7

Bregenz v Linz ASK
Rapid Wien v Lustenau
SV Ried v Salzburg
Sturm Graz v Austria Wien

Sat, August 14

Austria Wien v SV Ried
Linz ASK v Rapid Wien
Lustenau v Sturm Graz
Salzburg v FC Tirol

Sun, August 15

Grazer AK v Bregenz

Sat, August 21

FC Tirol v Bregenz
Lustenau v Austria Wien
Rapid Wien v Grazer AK
SV Ried v Linz ASK
Sturm Graz v Salzburg

Tues, August 24

Bregenz v Austria Wien

Sat, August 28

Austria Wien v Lustenau
Bregenz v FC Tirol
Linz ASK v SV Ried
Salzburg v Sturm Graz

Sun, August 29

Grazer AK v Rapid Wien

Sat, September 11

Austria Wien v Grazer AK
Lustenau v Salzburg
Rapid Wien v FC Tirol
SV Ried v Bregenz
Sturm Graz v Linz ASK

Sat, September 18

Bregenz v Rapid Wien
FC Tirol v Sturm Graz
Grazer AK v SV Ried
Linz ASK v Lustenau
Salzburg v Austria Wien

Sat, September 25

Austria Wien v Linz ASK
Lustenau v Grazer AK
SV Ried v FC Tirol
Salzburg v Rapid Wien
Sturm Graz v Bregenz

Sat, October 2

Bregenz v Lustenau
FC Tirol v Austria Wien
Rapid Wien v SV Ried

Sun, October 3

Grazer AK v Sturm Graz
Linz ASK v Salzburg

Wed, October 6

Austria Wien v Bregenz
Linz ASK v FC Tirol
Lustenau v SV Ried
Salzburg v Grazer AK
Sturm Graz v Rapid Wien

Sat, October 16

Bregenz v Salzburg
FC Tirol v Lustenau
Grazer AK v Linz ASK
Rapid Wien v Austria Wien
SV Ried v Sturm Graz

Sat, October 23

Austria Wien v Sturm Graz
Grazer AK v FC Tirol
Linz ASK v Bregenz
Lustenau v Rapid Wien
Salzburg v SV Ried

Sat, October 30

Bregenz v Grazer AK
FC Tirol v Salzburg
Rapid Wien v Linz ASK
SV Ried v Austria Wien
Sturm Graz v Lustenau

Sat, November 6

Bregenz v Lustenau
Grazer AK v Austria Wien
Linz ASK v SV Ried
Rapid Wien v FC Tirol
Salzburg v Sturm Graz

Sat, November 13

Austria Wien v Salzburg
FC Tirol v Linz ASK
Lustenau v Grazer AK
SV Ried v Rapid Wien
Sturm Graz v Bregenz

Sat, November 20

Bregenz v Austria Wien
Grazer AK v FC Tirol
Linz ASK v Sturm Graz
Rapid Wien v Lustenau
Salzburg v SV Ried

Sat, November 27

Austria Wien v Linz ASK
Lustenau v FC Tirol
SV Ried v Grazer AK
Salzburg v Bregenz
Sturm Graz v Rapid Wien

Sat, March 4, 2000

FC Tirol v Sturm Graz
Grazer AK v Salzburg
Linz ASK v Bregenz
Lustenau v SV Ried
Rapid Wien v Austria Wien

Sat, March 11

Austria Wien v Lustenau
Bregenz v Rapid Wien
SV Ried v FC Tirol
Salzburg v Linz ASK
Sturm Graz v Grazer AK

Sat, March 18

FC Tirol v Bregenz
Grazer AK v Linz ASK
Lustenau v Sturm Graz
Rapid Wien v Salzburg
SV Ried v Austria Wien

Sat, March 25

Austria Wien v FC Tirol
Bregenz v Grazer AK
Linz ASK v Rapid Wien
Salzburg v Lustenau
Sturm Graz v SV Ried

Sat, April 1

FC Tirol v Salzburg
Lustenau v Linz ASK
Rapid Wien v Grazer AK
SV Ried v Bregenz
Sturm Graz v Austria Wien

Sat, April 8

Austria Wien v Sturm Graz
Bregenz v SV Ried
Grazer AK v Rapid Wien
Linz ASK v Lustenau
Salzburg v FC Tirol

Sat, April 15

Austria Wien v Bregenz
FC Tirol v Grazer AK
Lustenau v Rapid Wien
SV Ried v Salzburg
Sturm Graz v Linz ASK

Sat, April 22

Bregenz v Sturm Graz
Grazer AK v Lustenau
Linz ASK v FC Tirol
Rapid Wien v SV Ried
Salzburg v Austria Wien

Sat, April 29

Austria Wien v Grazer AK
FC Tirol v Rapid Wien
Lustenau v Bregenz
SV Ried v Linz ASK
Sturm Graz v Salzburg

Sat, May 6

Bregenz v Salzburg
FC Tirol v Lustenau
Grazer AK v SV Ried
Linz ASK v Austria Wien
Rapid Wien v Sturm Graz

Wed, May 10

Austria Wien v Rapid Wien
Bregenz v Linz ASK
SV Ried v Lustenau
Salzburg v Grazer AK
Sturm Graz v FC Tirol

Sat, May 13

FC Tirol v SV Ried
Grazer AK v Sturm Graz
Linz ASK v Salzburg
Lustenau v Austria Wien
Rapid Wien v Bregenz

Sat, May 20

Austria Wien v SV Ried
Bregenz v FC Tirol
Linz ASK v Grazer AK
Salzburg v Rapid Wien
Sturm Graz v Lustenau

Sat, May 27

FC Tirol v Austria Wien
Grazer AK v Bregenz
Lustenau v Salzburg
Rapid Wien v Linz ASK
SV Ried v Sturm Graz

BELGIUM

Sat, August 7, 1999

Westerlo v Genk
Standard v Mechelen
Charleroi v Harelbeke
Geel v Gent
Lommel v Lokeren
Lierse v Germinal BA
Beveren v Eendracht Aalst

Sun, August 8

Anderlecht v Mouscron
Club Brugge v St Truiden

Sat, August 14

Gent v Genk
St Truiden v Geel
Mechelen v Charleroi
Westerlo v Standard
Germinal BA v Lommel

Sun, August 15

Lokeren v Club Brugge
Anderlecht v Beveren
Eendracht Aalst v Lierse

Sat, August 21

St Truiden v Lokeren
Charleroi v Westerlo
Mouscron v Mechelen
Geel v Genk
Lommel v Eendracht Aalst
Beveren v Harelbeke
Standard v Gent

Sun, August 22

Lierse v Anderlecht
Club Brugge v Germinal BA

Sat, August 28

Gent v Charleroi
Mechelen v Beveren
Westerlo v Mouscron
Lokeren v Geel
Germinal BA v St Truiden

Sun, August 29

Genk v Standard
Anderlecht v Lommel
Eendracht Aalst v Club Brugge
Harelbeke v Lierse

Sat, September 11

St Truiden v Eendracht Aalst
Mouscron v Gent
Lierse v Mechelen
Geel v Standard
Lommel v Harelbeke
Beveren v Westerlo
Charleroi v Genk
Lokeren v Germinal BA

Sun, September 12

Club Brugge v Anderlecht

Sat, September 18

Gent v Beveren
Genk v Mouscron
Standard v Charleroi
Germinal BA v Geel
Westerlo v Lierse
Mechelen v Lommel
Anderlecht v St Truiden

Sun, September 19

Eendracht Aalst v Lokeren
Harelbeke v Club Brugge

Sat, September 25

St Truiden v Harelbeke
Lommel v Westerlo
Geel v Charleroi
Lierse v Gent
Lokeren v Anderlecht
Germinal BA v Eendracht Aalst
Beveren v Genk
Mouscron v Standard

Sun, September 26

Club Brugge v Mechelen

Sat, October 2

Gent v Lommel
Westerlo v Club Brugge
Mechelen v St Truiden
Anderlecht v Germinal BA
Genk v Lierse
Standard v Beveren
Charleroi v Mouscron

Sun, October 3

Eendracht Aalst v Geel
Harelbeke v Lokeren

Wed, October 13

Club Brugge v Gent
St Truiden v Westerlo
Lokeren v Mechelen
Germinal BA v Harelbeke
Eendracht Aalst v Anderlecht
Beveren v Charleroi
Lierse v Standard
Lommel v Genk
Geel v Mouscron

Sat, October 23

Gent v St Truiden
Genk v Club Brugge
Standard v Lommel
Westerlo v Lokeren
Mechelen v Germinal BA
Charleroi v Lierse
Mouscron v Beveren
Anderlecht v Geel

Sun, October 24

Harelbeke v Eendracht Aalst

Sat, October 30

St Truiden v Genk
Anderlecht v Harelbeke
Lommel v Charleroi
Geel v Beveren
Lierse v Mouscron
Lokeren v Gent
Germinal BA v Westerlo

Sun, October 31

Club Brugge v Standard
Eendracht Aalst v Mechelen

Sat, November 6

Gent v Germinal BA
Genk v Lokeren
Standard v St Truiden
Westerlo v Eendracht Aalst
Mechelen v Anderlecht
Charleroi v Club Brugge
Mouscron v Lommel
Beveren v Lierse

Sun, November 7

Harelbeke v Geel

Wed, November 10

Club Brugge v Mouscron
St Truiden v Charleroi
Lokeren v Standard
Germinal BA v Genk
Eendracht Aalst v Gent
Anderlecht v Westerlo
Harelbeke v Mechelen
Lommel v Beveren
Geel v Lierse

Sat, November 20

Gent v Anderlecht
Genk v Eendracht Aalst
Standard v Germinal BA
Charleroi v Lokeren
Mouscron v St Truiden
Beveren v Club Brugge
Lierse v Lommel
Mechelen v Geel
Westerlo v Harelbeke

Sat, November 27

St Truiden v Beveren
Germinal BA v Charleroi
Anderlecht v Genk
Mechelen v Westerlo
Geel v Lommel
Lokeren v Mouscron

Sun, November 28

Club Brugge v Lierse
Harelbeke v Gent
Eendracht Aalst v Standard

Sat, December 4

Gent v Mechelen
Genk v Harelbeke
Standard v Anderlecht
Charleroi v Eendracht Aalst
Mouscron v Germinal BA
Beveren v Lokeren
Lierse v St Truiden
Lommel v Club Brugge
Geel v Westerlo

Sat, December 11

St Truiden v Lommel
Anderlecht v Charleroi
Westerlo v Gent
Mechelen v Genk
Lokeren v Lierse
Germinal BA v Beveren

Sun, December 12

Club Brugge v Geel
Eendracht Aalst v Mouscron
Harelbeke v Standard

Wed, January 12, 2000

St Truiden v Club Brugge
Genk v Westerlo
Mechelen v Standard
Anderlecht v Mouscron
Harelbeke v Charleroi
Eendracht Aalst v Beveren
Germinal BA v Lierse
Lokeren v Lommel
Gent v Geel

Sat, January 15

Lierse v Eendracht Aalst
Beveren v Anderlecht
Mouscron v Harelbeke
Charleroi v Mechelen
Standard v Westerlo
Lommel v Germinal BA
Genk v Gent
Geel v St Truiden

Sun, January 16

Club Brugge v Lokeren

Sat, January 22

Germinal BA v Club Brugge
Lokeren v St Truiden
Gent v Standard
Anderlecht v Lierse
Genk v Geel
Westerlo v Charleroi
Mechelen v Mouscron

Sun, January 23

Harelbeke v Beveren
Eendracht Aalst v Lommel

Sat, January 29

Charleroi v Gent
Lommel v Anderlecht
Beveren v Mechelen
Mouscron v Westerlo
Lierse v Harelbeke
Standard v Genk
Geel v Lokeren
St Truiden v Germinal BA

Sun, January 30

Club Brugge v Eendracht Aalst

Sat, February 5

Anderlecht v Club Brugge
Germinal BA v Lokeren
Gent v Mouscron
Mechelen v Lierse
Standard v Geel
Westerlo v Beveren
Genk v Charleroi

Sun, February 6

Eendracht Aalst v St Truiden
Harelbeke v Lommel

Sat, February 12

Mouscron v Genk
Charleroi v Standard
Lommel v Mechelen
Beveren v Gent
Lierse v Westerlo
Geel v Germinal BA
Lokeren v Eendracht Aalst
St Truiden v Anderlecht

Sun, February 13

Club Brugge v Harelbeke

Sat, February 19

Mechelen v Club Brugge
Anderlecht v Lokeren
Standard v Mouscron
Gent v Lierse
Charleroi v Geel
Westerlo v Lommel
Genk v Beveren

Sun, February 20

Harelbeke v St Truiden
Eendracht Aalst v Germinal BA

Sat, March 4

Lommel v Gent
Lierse v Genk
Beveren v Standard
Mouscron v Charleroi
Geel v Eendracht Aalst
Germinal BA v Anderlecht
Lokeren v Harelbeke
St Truiden v Mechelen

Sun, March 5

Club Brugge v Westerlo

Sat, March 11

Genk v Lommel
Mouscron v Geel
Anderlecht v Eendracht Aalst
Charleroi v Beveren
Standard v Lierse
Gent v Club Brugge
Westerlo v St Truiden
Mechelen v Lokeren

Sun, March 12

Harelbeke v Germinal BA

Sat, March 18

St Truiden v Gent
Geel v Anderlecht
Lokeren v Westerlo
Germinal BA v Mechelen
Lommel v Standard
Lierse v Charleroi
Beveren v Mouscron

Sun, March 19

Club Brugge v Genk
Eendracht Aalst v Harelbeke

Sat, March 25

Standard v Club Brugge
Genk v St Truiden
Beveren v Geel
Charleroi v Lommel
Mouscron v Lierse
Gent v Lokeren
Westerlo v Germinal BA
Mechelen v Eendracht Aalst

Sun, March 26

Harelbeke v Anderlecht

Sat, April 1

Germinal BA v Gent
Lokeren v Genk
Lommel v Mouscron
Lierse v Beveren
Anderlecht v Mechelen
Geel v Harelbeke
St Truiden v Standard

Sun, April 2

Club Brugge v Charleroi
Eendracht Aalst v Westerlo

Sat, April 8

Gent v Eendracht Aalst
Westerlo v Anderlecht
Mechelen v Harelbeke
Beveren v Lommel
Lierse v Geel
Genk v Germinal BA
Mouscron v Club Brugge
Charleroi v St Truiden
Standard v Lokeren

Sat, April 15

Anderlecht v Gent
St Truiden v Mouscron
Lommel v Lierse
Geel v Mechelen
Lokeren v Charleroi
Germinal BA v Standard

Sun, April 16

Eendracht Aalst v Genk
Club Brugge v Beveren
Harelbeke v Westerlo

Sat, April 22

Lierse v Club Brugge
Beveren v St Truiden
Mouscron v Lokeren
Charleroi v Germinal BA
Standard v Eendracht Aalst
Genk v Anderlecht
Gent v Harelbeke
Westerlo v Mechelen
Lommel v Geel

Sun, May 7

Mechelen v Gent
Harelbeke v Genk
Anderlecht v Standard
Eendracht Aalst v Charleroi
Germinal BA v Mouscron
Lokeren v Beveren
St Truiden v Lierse
Club Brugge v Lommel
Westerlo v Geel

Sun, May 14

Lommel v St Truiden
Lierse v Lokeren
Beveren v Germinal BA
Mouscron v Eendracht Aalst
Charleroi v Anderlecht
Standard v Harelbeke
Genk v Mechelen
Gent v Westerlo
Geel v Club Brugge

CROATIA

Sat, July 24, 1999

Croatia v Cibalia
Istra v Slaven
Rijeka v Osijek
Sibenik v Hrvatski drag
Vukovar '91 v Zagreb

Wed, July 28

Varteks v Hajduk

Sat, July 31

Cibalia v Zagreb
Slaven v Vukovar '91
Osijek v Istra
Hrvatski drag v Rijeka
Croatia v Varteks

Sun, August 1

Hajduk v Sibenik

Sat, August 28

Varteks v Cibalia
Sibenik v Croatia
Rijeka v Hajduk
Istra v Hrvatski drag
Vukovar '91 v Osijek
Zagreb v Slaven

Tues, September 7

Cibalia v Slaven
Osijek v Zagreb
Hrvatski drag v Vukovar '91
Hajduk v Istra
Croatia v Rijeka
Varteks v Sibenik

Sat, September 11

Sibenik v Cibalia
Rijeka v Varteks
Istra v Croatia
Vukovar '91 v Hajduk
Zagreb v Hrvatski drag
Slaven v Osijek

Sat, September 18

Cibalia v Osijek
Hrvatski drag v Slaven
Hajduk v Zagreb
Croatia v Vukovar '91
Varteks v Istra
Sibenik v Rijeka

Sat, September 25

Rijeka v Cibalia
Istra v Sibenik
Vukovar '91 v Varteks
Zagreb v Croatia
Slaven v Hajduk
Osijek v Hrvatski drag

Sat, October 2

Cibalia v Hrvatski drag
Hajduk v Osijek
Croatia v Slaven
Varteks v Zagreb
Sibenik v Vukovar '91
Rijeka v Istra

Tues, October 12

Istra v Cibalia
Vukovar '91 v Rijeka
Zagreb v Sibenik
Slaven v Varteks
Osijek v Croatia
Hrvatski drag v Hajduk

Sat, October 16

Cibalia v Hajduk
Croatia v Hrvatski drag
Varteks v Osijek
Sibenik v Slaven
Rijeka v Zagreb
Istra v Vukovar '91

Sat, October 23

Vukovar '91 v Cibalia
Zagreb v Istra
Slaven v Rijeka
Osijek v Sibenik
Hrvatski drag v Varteks
Hajduk v Croatia

CZECH REP

Fri, July 30, 1999

Sparta v Zizkov

Sat, July 31

Jablonec v Dukla
Teplice v Opava

Sun, August 1

Ceske Budejovice v Drnovice
Brno v Olomouc
Bohemians v Slavia
Ostrava v Chmel Blsany
Kralove v Liberec

Fri, August 6

Jablonec v Teplice

Sat, August 7

Opava v Sparta

Sun, August 8

Dukla v Liberec
Chmel Blsany v Kralove
Slavia v Ostrava
Olomouc v Bohemians
Zizkov v Ceske Budejovice

Mon, August 9

Drnovice v Brno

Fri, August 13

Kralove v Slavia

Sat, August 14

Teplice v Dukla
Sparta v Jablonec
Ceske Budejovice v Opava
Brno v Zizkov
Liberec v Chmel Blsany

Sun, Aug 15

Bohemians v Drnovice
Ostrava v Olomouc

Fri, August 20

Opava v Brno

Sun, August 22

Dukla v Chmel Blsany
Slavia v Liberec
Olomouc v Kralove
Drnovice v Ostrava
Zizkov v Bohemians
Jablonec v Ceske Budejovice
Teplice v Sparta

Fri, August 27

Chmel Blsany v Slavia

Sat, August 28

Sparta v Dukla
Ceske Budejovice v Teplice
Brno v Jablonec
Ostrava v Zizkov
Kralove v Drnovice

Sun, August 29

Bohemians v Opava
Liberec v Olomouc

Sun, September 12

Dukla v Slavia
Olomouc v Chmel Blsany
Drnovice v Liberec
Zizkov v Kralove
Opava v Ostrava
Jablonec v Bohemians
Teplice v Brno
Sparta v Ceske Budejovice

Sat, September 18

Ostrava v Jablonec

Sun, September 19

Ceske Budejovice v Dukla
Brno v Sparta
Bohemians v Teplice
Kralove v Opava
Liberec v Zizkov
Chmel Blsany v Drnovice
Slavia v Olomouc

Sun, September 26

Dukla v Olomouc
Drnovice v Slavia
Zizkov v Chmel Blsany
Opava v Liberec
Jablonec v Kralove
Teplice v Ostrava
Sparta v Bohemians
Ceske Budejovice v Brno

Sat, October 2

Brno v Dukla
Bohemians v Ceske Budejovice
Ostrava v Sparta
Kralove v Teplice
Liberec v Jablonec
Chmel Blsany v Opava
Olomouc v Drnovice

Sun, October 3

Slavia v Zizkov

Sun, October 17

Dukla v Drnovice
Zizkov v Olomouc
Opava v Slavia
Jablonec v Chmel Blsany
Teplice v Liberec
Sparta v Kralove
Ceske Budejovice v Ostrava
Brno v Bohemians

Sun, October 24

Bohemians v Dukla
Ostrava v Brno
Kralove v Ceske Budejovice
Liberec v Sparta
Chmel Blsany v Teplice
Slavia v Jablonec
Olomouc v Opava
Drnovice v Zizkov

Sun, October 31

Dukla v Zizkov
Opava v Drnovice
Jablonec v Olomouc
Teplice v Slavia
Sparta v Chmel Blsany
Ceske Budejovice v Liberec
Brno v Kralove
Bohemians v Ostrava

Sun, November 7

Ostrava v Dukla
Kralove v Bohemians
Liberec v Brno
Chmel Blsany v Ceske Budejovice
Slavia v Sparta
Olomouc v Teplice
Drnovice v Jablonec
Zizkov v Opava

Sun, November 21

Dukla v Opava
Jablonec v Zizkov
Teplice v Drnovice
Sparta v Olomouc
Ceske Budejovice v Slavia
Brno v Chmel Blsany
Bohemians v Liberec
Ostrava v Kralove

Sun, November 28

Kralove v Dukla
Liberec v Ostrava
Chmel Blsany v Bohemians
Slavia v Brno
Olomouc v Ceske Budejovice
Drnovice v Sparta
Zizkov v Teplice
Opava v Jablonec

Sun, December 5

Dukla v Jablonec
Opava v Teplice
Zizkov v Sparta
Drnovice v Ceske Budejovice
Olomouc v Brno
Slavia v Bohemians
Chmel Blsany v Ostrava
Liberec v Kralove

DENMARK

Sat, July 24, 1999

Brondby v Lyngby

Sun, July 25

Vejle v Silkeborg
AB v AGF
Herfolge v AaB
Viborg v FC Copenhagen

Mon, July 26

Esbjerg v OB

Sun, August 1

Vejle v Brondby
AGF v Herfolge
OB v AB
Lyngby v Esbjerg
Silkeborg v FC Copenhagen

Mon, August 2

AaB v Viborg

Fri, August 6

FC Copenhagen v AaB

Sun, August 8

Brondby v Silkeborg
AB v Lyngby
Herfolge v OB
Viborg v AGF

Mon, August 9

Esbjerg v Vejle

EUROPEAN LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sun, August 15

Vejle v AB
Brondby v Esbjerg
AGF v FC Copenhagen
OB v Viborg
Lyngby v Herfolge
AaB v Silkeborg

Sat, August 21

AaB v AGF

Sun, August 22

Silkeborg v Esbjerg
AB v Brondby
Herfolge v Vejle
Viborg v Lyngby
FC Copenhagen v OB

Sun, August 29

Vejle v Viborg
Brondby v Herfolge
Esbjerg v AB
OB v AaB
Lyngby v FC Copenhagen
Silkeborg v AGF

Sun, September 12

AB v Silkeborg
Herfolge v Esbjerg
Viborg v Brondby
FC Copenhagen v Vejle
AaB v Lyngby
AGF v OB

Sun, September 19

Vejle v AaB
Brondby v FC Copenhagen
Esbjerg v Viborg
AB v Herfolge
Lyngby v AGF
Silkeborg v OB

Sun, September 26

Herfolge v Silkeborg
Viborg v AB
FC Copenhagen v Esbjerg
AaB v Brondby
AGF v Vejle
OB v Lyngby

Sun, October 3

Vejle v OB
Brondby v AGF
Esbjerg v AaB
AB v FC Copenhagen
Herfolge v Viborg
Lyngby v Silkeborg

Wed, October 6

Silkeborg v Viborg
FC Copenhagen v Herfolge
AaB v AB
AGF v Esbjerg
OB v Brondby
Lyngby v Vejle

Wed, October 13

AGF v Brondby
FC Copenhagen v OB
AB v Esbjerg
AaB v Herfolge
Viborg v Lyngby
Silkeborg v Vejle

Sun, October 17

Vejle v AGF
Brondby v Viborg
Lyngby v AaB
Herfolge v AB
Esbjerg v FC Copenhagen
OB v Silkeborg

Sun, October 24

AaB v Brondby
Viborg v AGF
Silkeborg v Esbjerg
FC Copenhagen v Herfolge
AB v Lyngby
OB v Vejle

Sun, October 31

Vejle v Viborg
AGF v AaB
Brondby v AB
Lyngby v FC Copenhagen
Herfolge v Silkeborg
Esbjerg v OB

Sun, November 7

FC Copenhagen v Brondby
AB v AGF
AaB v Viborg
OB v Herfolge
Silkeborg v Lyngby
Esbjerg v Vejle

Sun, November 14

Vejle v AaB
Viborg v AB
AGF v FC Copenhagen
Brondby v Silkeborg
Lyngby v OB
Herfolge v Esbjerg

Sun, November 21

OB v Brondby
Silkeborg v AGF
FC Copenhagen v Viborg
AB v AaB
Esbjerg v Lyngby
Herfolge v Vejle

Sun, March 12, 2000

Vejle v AB
AaB v FC Copenhagen
Viborg v Silkeborg
AGF v OB
Brondby v Esbjerg
Lyngby v Herfolge

Sun, March 19

Herfolge v Brondby
Esbjerg v AGF
OB v Viborg
Silkeborg v AaB
FC Copenhagen v AB
Lyngby v Vejle

Sun, March 26

Vejle v FC Copenhagen
AB v Silkeborg
AaB v OB
Viborg v Esbjerg
AGF v Herfolge
Brondby v Lyngby

Sun, April 2

Vejle v Brondby
Lyngby v AGF
Herfolge v Viborg
Esbjerg v AaB
OB v AB
Silkeborg v FC Copenhagen

Sun, April 9

AGF v Vejle
Viborg v Brondby
AaB v Lyngby
AB v Herfolge
FC Copenhagen v Esbjerg
Silkeborg v OB

Sun, April 16

Brondby v AGF
OB v FC Copenhagen
Esbjerg v AB
Herfolge v AaB
Lyngby v Viborg
Vejle v Silkeborg

Thur, April 20

Brondby v Vejle
AGF v Lyngby
Viborg v Herfolge
AaB v Esbjerg
AB v OB
FC Copenhagen v Silkeborg

Sun, April 23

FC Copenhagen v Vejle
Silkeborg v AB
OB v AaB
Esbjerg v Viborg
Herfolge v AGF
Lyngby v Brondby

Sun, April 30

Brondby v Herfolge
AGF v Esbjerg
Viborg v OB
AaB v Silkeborg
AB v FC Copenhagen
Vejle v Lyngby

Sun, May 7

AB v Vejle
FC Copenhagen v AaB
Silkeborg v Viborg
OB v AGF
Esbjerg v Brondby
Herfolge v Lyngby

Wed, May 10

Brondby v OB
AGF v Silkeborg
Viborg v FC Copenhagen
AaB v AB
Lyngby v Esbjerg
Vejle v Herfolge

Sun, May 14

AaB v Vejle
AB v Viborg
FC Copenhagen v AGF
Silkeborg v Brondby
OB v Lyngby
Esbjerg v Herfolge

Sun, May 21

Brondby v FC Copenhagen
AGF v AB
Viborg v AaB
Herfolge v OB
Lyngby v Silkeborg
Vejle v Esbjerg

Thur, May 25

Viborg v Vejle
AaB v AGF
AB v Brondby
FC Copenhagen v Lyngby
Silkeborg v Herfolge
OB v Esbjerg

Sun, May 28

Brondby v AaB
AGF v Viborg
Esbjerg v Silkeborg
Herfolge v FC Copenhagen
Lyngby v AB
Vejle v OB

ENGLAND

Sat, August 7, 1999

Arsenal v Leicester
Chelsea v Sunderland
Coventry v Southampton
Leeds v Derby
Middlesbrough v Bradford
Newcastle v Aston Villa
Sheff Wed v Liverpool
Watford v Wimbledon
West Ham v Tottenham

Sun, August 8

Everton v Man Utd

Mon, August 9

Tottenham v Newcastle

Tues, August 10

Derby v Arsenal
Sunderland v Watford
Wimbledon v Middlesbrough

Wed, August 11

Aston Villa v Everton
Leicester v Coventry
Liverpool v West Ham
Man Utd v Sheff Wed
Southampton v Leeds

Sat, August 14

Bradford v Sheff Wed
Derby v Middlesbrough
Leicester v Chelsea
Liverpool v Watford
Man Utd v Leeds
Sunderland v Arsenal
Tottenham v Everton
Wimbledon v Coventry

Sun, August 15

Southampton v Newcastle

Mon, August 16

Aston Villa v West Ham

Sat, August 21

Chelsea v Aston Villa
Coventry v Derby
Everton v Southampton
Leeds v Sunderland
Middlesbrough v Liverpool
Newcastle v Wimbledon
Sheff Wed v Tottenham
Watford v Bradford
West Ham v Leicester

Sun, August 22

Arsenal v Man Utd

Mon, August 23

Leeds v Liverpool

Tues, August 24

Middlesbrough v Leicester
Watford v Aston Villa

Wed, August 25

Arsenal v Bradford
Coventry v Man Utd
Everton v Wimbledon
Newcastle v Sunderland
Sheff Wed v Derby
West Ham v Southampton

Sat, August 28

Aston Villa v Middlesbrough
Bradford v West Ham
Derby v Everton
Liverpool v Arsenal
Man Utd v Newcastle
Southampton v Sheff Wed
Tottenham v Leeds
Wimbledon v Chelsea

Sun, August 29

Sunderland v Coventry

Mon, August 30

Leicester v Watford

Sat, September 11

Arsenal v Aston Villa
Chelsea v Newcastle
Coventry v Leeds
Liverpool v Man Utd
Middlesbrough v Southampton
Sheff Wed v Everton
Sunderland v Leicester
West Ham v Watford
Wimbledon v Derby

Sun, September 12

Bradford v Tottenham

Sat, September 18

Aston Villa v Bradford
Derby v Sunderland
Everton v West Ham
Leicester v Liverpool
Man Utd v Wimbledon
Newcastle v Sheff Wed
Southampton v Arsenal
Watford v Chelsea

Sun, September 19

Leeds v Middlesbrough
Tottenham v Coventry

Sat, September 25

Arsenal v Watford
Coventry v West Ham
Derby v Bradford
Leeds v Newcastle
Leicester v Aston Villa
Man Utd v Southampton
Middlesbrough v Chelsea
Sunderland v Sheff Wed

Sun, September 26

Wimbledon v Tottenham

Mon, September 27

Liverpool v Everton

Sat, October 2

Aston Villa v Liverpool
Bradford v Sunderland
Everton v Coventry
Newcastle v Middlesbrough
Sheff Wed v Wimbledon
West Ham v Arsenal

Sun, October 3

Chelsea v Man Utd
Tottenham v Leicester
Watford v Leeds

Mon, October 4

Southampton v Derby

Sat, October 16

Arsenal v Everton
Coventry v Newcastle
Derby v Tottenham
Leeds v Sheff Wed
Leicester v Southampton
Liverpool v Chelsea
Man Utd v Watford
Wimbledon v Bradford

Sun, October 17

Middlesbrough v West Ham

Mon, October 18

Sunderland v Aston Villa

Sat, October 23

Aston Villa v Wimbledon
Bradford v Leicester
Chelsea v Arsenal
Everton v Leeds
Sheff Wed v Coventry
Southampton v Liverpool
Tottenham v Man Utd
West Ham v Sunderland

Sun, October 24

Watford v Middlesbrough

Mon, October 25

Newcastle v Derby

Sat, October 30

Arsenal v Newcastle
Derby v Chelsea
Leeds v West Ham
Leicester v Sheff Wed
Man Utd v Aston Villa
Middlesbrough v Everton
Sunderland v Tottenham
Wimbledon v Southampton

Sun, October 31

Coventry v Watford

Mon, November 1

Liverpool v Bradford

Sat, November 6

Aston Villa v Southampton
Bradford v Coventry
Chelsea v West Ham
Liverpool v Derby
Man Utd v Leicester
Middlesbrough v Sunderland
Sheff Wed v Watford
Tottenham v Arsenal

Sun, November 7

Wimbledon v Leeds

Mon, November 8

Newcastle v Everton

Sat, November 20

Arsenal v Middlesbrough
Derby v Man Utd
Everton v Chelsea
Leeds v Bradford
Leicester v Wimbledon
Southampton v Tottenham
Sunderland v Liverpool
Watford v Newcastle

Sun, November 21

West Ham v Sheff Wed

Mon, November 22

Coventry v Aston Villa

Sat, November 27

Arsenal v Derby
Coventry v Leicester
Everton v Aston Villa
Leeds v Southampton
Middlesbrough v Wimbledon
Newcastle v Tottenham
Sheff Wed v Man Utd
Watford v Sunderland
West Ham v Liverpool

Sun, November 28

Chelsea v Bradford

Sat, December 4

Aston Villa v Newcastle
Bradford v Middlesbrough
Derby v Leeds
Leicester v Arsenal
Man Utd v Everton
Southampton v Coventry
Sunderland v Chelsea
Wimbledon v Watford

Sun, December 5

Liverpool v Sheff Wed

Mon, December 6

Tottenham v West Ham

Sat, December 18

Arsenal v Wimbledon
Aston Villa v Sheff Wed
Bradford v Newcastle
Leicester v Derby
Liverpool v Coventry
Middlesbrough v Tottenham
Sunderland v Southampton
Watford v Everton
West Ham v Man Utd

Sun, December 19

Chelsea v Leeds

Sun, December 26

Coventry v Arsenal
Derby v Aston Villa
Everton v Sunderland
Leeds v Leicester
Man Utd v Bradford
Newcastle v Liverpool
Sheff Wed v Middlesbrough
Southampton v Chelsea
Tottenham v Watford
Wimbledon v West Ham

Tues, December 28

Arsenal v Leeds
Bradford v Everton
Leicester v Newcastle
Liverpool v Wimbledon
Sunderland v Man Utd
Watford v Southampton
West Ham v Derby

Wed, December 29

Aston Villa v Tottenham
Chelsea v Sheff Wed
Middlesbrough v Coventry

Mon, January 3, 2000

Coventry v Chelsea
Derby v Watford
Everton v Leicester
Leeds v Aston Villa
Man Utd v Middlesbrough
Newcastle v West Ham
Sheff Wed v Arsenal
Southampton v Bradford
Tottenham v Liverpool
Wimbledon v Sunderland

Sat, January 8

Bradford v Chelsea

Wed, January 12

Chelsea v Tottenham

Sat, January 15

Arsenal v Sunderland
Chelsea v Leicester
Coventry v Wimbledon
Everton v Tottenham
Leeds v Man Utd
Middlesbrough v Derby
Newcastle v Southampton
Sheff Wed v Bradford
Watford v Liverpool
West Ham v Aston Villa

Sat, January 22

Aston Villa v Chelsea
Bradford v Watford
Derby v Coventry
Leicester v West Ham
Liverpool v Middlesbrough
Man Utd v Arsenal
Southampton v Everton
Sunderland v Leeds
Tottenham v Sheff Wed
Wimbledon v Newcastle

Sat, February 5

Aston Villa v Watford
Bradford v Arsenal
Derby v Sheff Wed
Leicester v Middlesbrough
Liverpool v Leeds
Man Utd v Coventry
Southampton v West Ham
Sunderland v Newcastle
Tottenham v Chelsea
Wimbledon v Everton

Sat, February 12

Arsenal v Liverpool
Chelsea v Wimbledon
Coventry v Sunderland
Everton v Derby
Leeds v Tottenham
Middlesbrough v Aston Villa
Newcastle v Man Utd
Sheff Wed v Southampton
Watford v Leicester
West Ham v Bradford

Sat, February 26

Arsenal v Southampton
Bradford v Aston Villa
Chelsea v Watford
Coventry v Tottenham
Liverpool v Leicester
Middlesbrough v Leeds
Sheff Wed v Newcastle
Sunderland v Derby
West Ham v Everton
Wimbledon v Man Utd

Sat, March 4

Aston Villa v Arsenal
Derby v Wimbledon
Everton v Sheff Wed
Leeds v Coventry
Leicester v Sunderland
Man Utd v Liverpool
Newcastle v Chelsea
Southampton v Middlesbrough
Tottenham v Bradford
Watford v West Ham

Sat, March 11

Aston Villa v Coventry
Bradford v Leeds
Chelsea v Everton
Liverpool v Sunderland
Man Utd v Derby
Middlesbrough v Arsenal
Newcastle v Watford
Sheff Wed v West Ham
Tottenham v Southampton
Wimbledon v Leicester

Sat, March 18

Arsenal v Tottenham
Coventry v Bradford
Derby v Liverpool
Everton v Newcastle
Leeds v Wimbledon
Leicester v Man Utd
Southampton v Aston Villa
Sunderland v Middlesbrough
Watford v Sheff Wed
West Ham v Chelsea

Sat, March 25

Arsenal v Coventry
Aston Villa v Derby
Bradford v Man Utd
Chelsea v Southampton
Leicester v Leeds
Liverpool v Newcastle
Middlesbrough v Sheff Wed
Sunderland v Everton
Watford v Tottenham
West Ham v Wimbledon

Sat, April 1

Coventry v Liverpool
Derby v Leicester
Everton v Watford
Leeds v Chelsea
Man Utd v West Ham
Newcastle v Bradford
Sheff Wed v Aston Villa
Southampton v Sunderland
Tottenham v Middlesbrough
Wimbledon v Arsenal

Sat, April 8

Arsenal v Sheff Wed
Aston Villa v Leeds
Bradford v Southampton
Chelsea v Coventry
Leicester v Everton
Liverpool v Tottenham
Middlesbrough v Man Utd
Sunderland v Wimbledon
Watford v Derby
West Ham v Newcastle

Sat, April 15

Coventry v Middlesbrough
Derby v West Ham
Everton v Bradford
Leeds v Arsenal
Man Utd v Sunderland
Newcastle v Leicester
Sheff Wed v Chelsea
Southampton v Watford
Tottenham v Aston Villa
Wimbledon v Liverpool

Sat, April 22

Aston Villa v Leicester
Bradford v Derby
Chelsea v Middlesbrough
Everton v Liverpool
Newcastle v Leeds
Sheff Wed v Sunderland
Southampton v Man Utd
Tottenham v Wimbledon
Watford v Arsenal
West Ham v Coventry

Mon, April 24

Arsenal v West Ham
Coventry v Everton
Derby v Southampton
Leeds v Watford
Leicester v Tottenham
Liverpool v Aston Villa
Man Utd v Chelsea
Middlesbrough v Newcastle
Sunderland v Bradford
Wimbledon v Sheff Wed

Sat, April 29

Aston Villa v Sunderland
Bradford v Wimbledon
Chelsea v Liverpool
Everton v Arsenal
Newcastle v Coventry
Sheff Wed v Leeds
Southampton v Leicester
Tottenham v Derby
Watford v Man Utd
West Ham v Middlesbrough

Sat, May 6

Arsenal v Chelsea
Coventry v Sheff Wed
Derby v Newcastle
Leeds v Everton
Leicester v Bradford
Liverpool v Southampton
Man Utd v Tottenham
Middlesbrough v Watford
Sunderland v West Ham
Wimbledon v Aston Villa

Sun, May 14

Aston Villa v Man Utd
Bradford v Liverpool
Chelsea v Derby
Everton v Middlesbrough
Newcastle v Arsenal
Sheff Wed v Leicester
Southampton v Wimbledon
Tottenham v Sunderland
Watford v Coventry
West Ham v Leeds

FRANCE

Fri, July 30, 1999

Monaco v Saint-Etienne
Bordeaux v Bastia

Sat, July 31

Auxerre v Nancy
Lyon v Montpellier
Marseille v Sedan
Metz v Rennes
Nantes v Le Havre
Paris SG v Troyes
Strasbourg v Lens

Thur, August 5

Le Havre v Marseille
Troyes v Lyon

Fri, August 6

Metz v Auxerre
Montpellier v Bordeaux
Lens v Monaco
Sedan v Nancy
Saint-Etienne v Nantes
Rennes v Paris SG
Bastia v Strasbourg

Sat, August 14

Monaco v Bastia
Nancy v Le Havre
Nantes v Lens
Paris SG v Metz
Strasbourg v Montpellier
Auxerre v Sedan
Bordeaux v Troyes

Sun, August 15

Lyon v Rennes
Marseille v Saint-Etienne

Fri, August 20

Paris SG v Auxerre
Rennes v Bordeaux
Metz v Lyon
Lens v Marseille
Montpellier v Monaco
Saint-Etienne v Nancy
Bastia v Nantes
Troyes v Strasbourg
Le Havre v Sedan

Sat, August 28

Marseille v Bastia
Auxerre v Le Havre
Nancy v Lens
Bordeaux v Metz
Nantes v Montpellier
Lyon v Paris SG
Strasbourg v Rennes
Sedan v Saint-Etienne
Monaco v Troyes

Fri, September 10

Lyon v Auxerre
Paris SG v Bordeaux
Saint-Etiennev Le Havre
Montpellier v Marseille
Rennes v Monaco
Bastia v Nancy
Troyes v Nantes
Metz v Strasbourg
Lens v Sedan

Sat, September 18

Sedan v Bastia
Le Havre v Lens
Bordeaux v Lyon
Monaco v Metz
Nancy v Montpellier
Strasbourg v Paris SG
Nantes v Rennes
Auxerre v Saint-Etienne
Marseille v Troyes

Sat, September 25

Bordeaux v Auxerre
Bastia v Le Havre
Rennes v Marseille
Paris SG v Monaco
Troyes v Nancy
Metz v Nantes
Lyon v Strasbourg
Montpellier v Sedan
Lens v Saint-Etienne

Sat, October 2

Saint-Etienne v Bastia
Strasbourg v Bordeaux
Auxerre v Lens
Monaco v Lyon
Marseille v Metz
Le Havre v Montpellier
Nantes v Paris SG
Nancy v Rennes
Sedan v Troyes

Tues, October 12

Strasbourg v Auxerre
Troyes v Le Havre
Bastia v Lens
Paris SG v Marseille
Bordeaux v Monaco
Metz v Nancy
Lyon v Nantes
Rennes v Sedan
Montpellier v Saint-Etienne

Fri, October 15

Auxerre v Bastia
Nantes v Bordeaux
Marseille v Lyon
Sedan v Metz
Lens v Montpellier
Nancy v Paris SG
Le Havre v Rennes
Monaco v Strasbourg
Saint-Etienne v Troyes

Sat, October 23

Monaco v Auxerre
Montpellier v Bastia
Metz v Le Havre
Troyes v Lens
Bordeaux v Marseille
Lyon v Nancy
Strasbourg v Nantes
Paris SG v Sedan
Rennes v Saint-Etienne

Sat, October 30

Nancy v Bordeaux
Sedan v Lyon
Saint-Etienne v Metz
Nantes v Monaco
Auxerre v Montpellier
Le Havre v Paris SG
Lens v Rennes
Marseille v Strasbourg
Bastia v Troyes

Sat, November 6

Nantes v Auxerre
Rennes v Bastia
Lyon v Le Havre
Metz v Lens
Monaco v Marseille
Troyes v Montpellier
Strasbourg v Nancy
Bordeaux v Sedan
Paris SG v Saint-Etienne

Wed, November 10

Le Havre v Bordeaux
Saint-Etienne v Lyon
Bastia v Metz
Nancy v Monaco
Marseille v Nantes
Lens v Paris SG
Montpellier v Rennes
Sedan v Strasbourg
Auxerre v Troyes

Fri, November 19

Marseille v Auxerre
Paris SG v Bastia
Strasbourg v Le Havre
Lyon v Lens
Metz v Montpellier
Nantes v Nancy
Monaco v Sedan
Bordeaux v Saint-Etienne
Rennes v Troyes

Sat, November 27

Rennes v Auxerre
Lens v Bordeaux
Bastia v Lyon
Nancy v Marseille
Troyes v Metz
Le Havre v Monaco
Sedan v Nantes
Montpellier v Paris SG
Saint-Etienne v Strasbourg

Fri, December 3

Strasbourg v Bastia
Marseille v Le Havre
Monaco v Lens
Auxerre v Metz
Bordeaux v Montpellier
Paris SG v Rennes
Nancy v Sedan
Nantes v Saint-Etienne
Lyon v Troyes

Sat, December 11

Sedan v Auxerre
Troyes v Bordeaux
Rennes v Lyon
Saint-Etienne v Marseille
Bastia v Monaco
Le Havre v Nancy
Lens v Nantes
Metz v Paris SG
Montpellier v Strasbourg

Wed, December 15

Nantes v Bastia
Sedan v Le Havre
Marseille v Lens
Lyon v Metz
Monaco v Montpellier
Auxerre v Paris SG
Bordeaux v Rennes
Nancy v Saint-Etienne
Strasbourg v Troyes

Sat, December 18

Le Havre v Auxerre
Metz v Bordeaux
Paris SG v Lyon
Bastia v Marseille
Troyes v Monaco
Lens v Nancy
Montpellier v Nantes
Rennes v Strasbourg
Saint-Etienne v Sedan

Sat, January 15, 2000

Nancy v Bastia
Sedan v Lens
Auxerre v Lyon
Strasbourg v Metz
Marseille v Montpellier
Bordeaux v Paris SG
Monaco v Rennes
Le Havre v Saint-Etienne
Nantes v Troyes

Wed, January 26

Saint-Etienne v Auxerre
Lyon v Bordeaux
Lens v Le Havre
Troyes v Marseille
Metz v Monaco
Montpellier v Nancy
Rennes v Nantes
Paris SG v Strasbourg
Bastia v Sedan

Wed, February 2

Le Havre v Bastia
Auxerre v Bordeaux
Saint-Etienne v Lens
Strasbourg v Lyon
Nantes v Metz
Sedan v Montpellier
Monaco v Paris SG
Marseille v Rennes
Nancy v Troyes

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Sat, February 5

Lens v Auxerre
Montpellier v Le Havre
Metz v Marseille
Lyon v Monaco
Rennes v Nancy
Paris SG v Nantes
Bordeaux v Strasbourg
Troyes v Sedan
Bastia v Saint-Etienne

Wed, February 16

Lens v Bastia
Monaco v Bordeaux
Nantes v Lyon
Nancy v Metz
Saint-Etienne v Montpellier
Marseille v Paris SG
Sedan v Rennes
Auxerre v Strasbourg
Le Havre v Troyes

Fri, February 25

Bastia v Auxerre
Rennes v Le Havre
Montpellier v Lens
Lyon v Marseille
Strasbourg v Monaco
Paris SG v Nancy
Bordeaux v Nantes
Metz v Sedan
Troyes v Saint-Etienne

Sat, March 11

Marseille v Bordeaux
Nancy v Lyon
Le Havre v Metz
Auxerre v Monaco
Bastia v Montpellier
Sedan v Paris SG
Saint-Etienne v Rennes
Nantes v Strasbourg
Lens v Troyes

Sat, March 25

Montpellier v Auxerre
Troyes v Bastia
Paris SG v Le Havre
Rennes v Lens
Strasbourg v Marseille
Bordeaux v Nancy
Monaco v Nantes
Lyon v Sedan
Metz v Saint-Etienne

Sat, April 8

Sedan v Bordeaux
Le Havre v Lyon
Lens v Metz
Marseille v Monaco
Auxerre v Nantes
Saint-Etienne v Paris SG
Bastia v Rennes
Nancy v Strasbourg
Montpellier v Troyes

Sat, April 15

Troyes v Auxerre
Metz v Bastia
Bordeaux v Le Havre
Paris SG v Lens
Nantes v Marseille
Rennes v Montpellier
Monaco v Nancy
Strasbourg v Sedan
Lyon v Saint-Etienne

Sat, April 29

Saint-Etienne v Bordeaux
Lens v Lyon
Auxerre v Marseille
Montpellier v Metz
Sedan v Monaco
Nancy v Nantes
Bastia v Paris SG
Troyes v Rennes
Le Havre v Strasbourg

Sat, May 13

Lyon v Bastia
Monaco v Le Havre
Bordeaux v Lens
Paris SG v Montpellier
Marseille v Nancy
Auxerre v Rennes
Nantes v Sedan
Strasbourg v Saint-Etienne
Metz v Troyes

Sat, May 20

Nancy v Auxerre
Bastia v Bordeaux
Montpellier v Lyon
Sedan v Marseille
Rennes v Metz
Saint-Etienne v Monaco
Le Havre v Nantes
Troyes v Paris SG
Lens v Strasbourg

GERMANY

Fri, August 13, 1999

Wolfsburg v 1860 Munich
Duisburg v Leverkusen

Sat, August 14

Kaiserslautern v Dortmund
Schalke v Bielefeld
Stuttgart vWerder Bremen
Bayern Munich v Hamburg
Eintracht v Unterhaching

Sun, August 15

Ulm v Freiburg
Hertha v Hansa Rostock

Fri, August 20

Unterhaching v Duisburg
Bielefeld v Hertha

Sat, August 21

1860 Munich v Ulm
Dortmund v Wolfsburg
Freiburg v Eintracht
Hamburg v Stuttgart
Werder Bremen v Schalke

Sun, August 22

Leverkusen v Bayern Munich
Hansa Rostock v Kaiserslautern

Fri, August 27

Kaiserslautern v Bielefeld
Schalke v Hamburg

Sat, August 28

Bayern Munich v Unterhaching
Stuttgart v Leverkusen
Wolfsburg v Hansa Rostock
Hertha v Werder Bremen
Freiburg v 1860 Munich

Sun, August 29

Ulm v Dortmund
Eintracht v Duisburg

Fri, September 10

Bielefeld v Wolfsburg
Hansa Rostock v Ulm

Sat, September 11

Unterhaching v Stuttgart
Duisburg v Bayern Munich
Hamburg v Hertha
Dortmund v Freiburg
Leverkusen v Schalke

Sun, September 12

1860 Munich v Eintracht
Werder Bremen v Kaiserslautern

Fri, September 17

Ulm v Bielefeld
Freiburg v Hansa Rostock

Sat, September 18

Schalke v Unterhaching
1860 Munich v Dortmund
Kaiserslautern v Hamburg
Stuttgart v Duisburg
Wolfsburg v Werder Bremen
Hertha v Leverkusen
Eintracht v Bayern Munich

Sat, September 25

Duisburg v Schalke
Hansa Rostock v 1860 Munich
Dortmund v Eintracht
Werder Bremen v Ulm
Bielefeld v Freiburg
Bayern Munich v Stuttgart
Leverkusen v Kaiserslautern
Hamburg v Wolfsburg
Unterhaching v Hertha

Fri, October 1

1860 Munich v Bielefeld

Sat, October 2

Ulm v Hamburg
Schalke v Bayern Munich
Kaiserslautern v Unterhaching
Hertha v Duisburg
Dortmund v Hansa Rostock
Wolfsburg v Leverkusen
Freiburg v Werder Bremen
Eintracht v Stuttgart

Sat, October 16

Duisburg v Kaiserslautern
Leverkusen v Ulm
Bielefeld v Dortmund
Bayern Munich v Hertha
Unterhaching v Wolfsburg
Hamburg v Freiburg
Hansa Rostock v Eintracht
Stuttgart v Schalke
Werder Bremen v 1860 Munich

Sat, October 23

Hansa Rostock v Bielefeld
Dortmund v Werder Bremen
1860 Munich v Hamburg
Freiburg v Leverkusen
Ulm v Unterhaching
Kaiserslautern v Bayern Munich
Hertha v Stuttgart
Wolfsburg v Duisburg
Eintracht v Schalke

Fri, October 29

Bielefeld v Eintracht
Werder Bremen v Hansa Rostock

Sat, October 30

Leverkusen v 1860 Munich
Bayern Munich v Wolfsburg
Stuttgart v Kaiserslautern
Schalke v Hertha
Hamburg v Dortmund

Sun, October 31

Unterhaching v Freiburg
Duisburg v Ulm

Sat, November 6

Bielefeld v Werder Bremen
Eintracht v Hertha
Kaiserslautern v Schalke
Freiburg v Duisburg
Ulm v Bayern Munich
Hansa Rostock v Hamburg
1860 Munich v Unterhaching
Dortmund v Leverkusen
Wolfsburg v Stuttgart

Sat, November 20

Duisburg v 1860 Munich
Leverkusen v Hansa Rostock
Hertha v Kaiserslautern
Unterhaching v Dortmund
Werder Bremen v Eintracht
Stuttgart v Ulm
Schalke v Wolfsburg
Hamburg v Bielefeld
Bayern Munich v Freiburg

Fri, November 26

Ulm v Schalke
Freiburg v Stuttgart

Sat, November 27

Bielefeld v Leverkusen
1860 Munich v Bayern Munich
Hansa Rostock v Unterhaching
Werder Bremen v Hamburg
Wolfsburg v Hertha
Eintracht v Kaiserslautern
Dortmund v Duisburg

Fri, December 3

Unterhaching v Bielefeld
Hertha v Ulm

Sat, December 4

Schalke v Freiburg
Stuttgart v 1860 Munich
Leverkusen v Werder Bremen
Kaiserslautern v Wolfsburg
Bayern Munich v Dortmund

Sun, December 5

Hamburg v Eintracht
Duisburg v Hansa Rostock

Sat, December 11

Werder Bremen v Unterhaching
1860 Munich v Schalke
Ulm v Kaiserslautern
Bielefeld v Duisburg
Freiburg v Hertha
Wolfsburg v Eintracht
Dortmund v Stuttgart
Hansa Rostock v Bayern Munich
Leverkusen v Hamburg

Wed, December 15

Kaiserslautern v Freiburg
Hertha v 1860 Munich
Unterhaching v Hamburg
Wolfsburg v Ulm
Stuttgart v Hansa Rostock
Duisburg v Werder Bremen
Bayern Munich v Bielefeld
Schalke v Dortmund
Eintracht v Leverkusen

Sat, December 18

Werder Bremen v Bayern Munich
Hansa Rostock v Schalke
Ulm v Eintracht
Bielefeld v Stuttgart
Hamburg v Duisburg
Dortmund v Hertha
Leverkusen v Unterhaching
1860 Munich v Kaiserslautern
Freiburg v Wolfsburg

Sat, February 5, 2000

Dortmund v Kaiserslautern
Werder Bremen v Stuttgart
Hamburg v Bayern Munich
Freiburg v Ulm
1860 Munich v Wolfsburg
Hansa Rostock v Hertha
Leverkusen v Duisburg
Unterhaching v Eintracht
Bielefeld v Schalke

Wed, February 9

Ulm v 1860 Munich
Stuttgart v Hamburg
Eintracht v Freiburg
Duisburg v Unterhaching
Schalke v Werder Bremen
Hertha v Bielefeld
Wolfsburg v Dortmund
Bayern Munich v Leverkusen
Kaiserslautern v Hansa Rostock

Sat, February 12

Bielefeld v Kaiserslautern
Leverkusen v Stuttgart
1860 Munich v Freiburg
Werder Bremen v Hertha
Dortmund v Ulm
Hansa Rostock v Wolfsburg
Unterhaching v Bayern Munich
Duisburg v Eintracht
Hamburg v Schalke

Sat, February 19

Eintracht v 1860 Munich
Hertha v Hamburg
Kaiserslautern v Werder Bremen
Stuttgart v Unterhaching
Freiburg v Dortmund
Bayern Munich v Duisburg
Schalke v Leverkusen
Ulm v Hansa Rostock
Wolfsburg v Bielefeld

Sat, February 26

Werder Bremen v Wolfsburg
Dortmund v 1860 Munich
Bielefeld v Ulm
Hamburg v Kaiserslautern
Leverkusen v Hertha
Duisburg v Stuttgart
Hansa Rostock v Freiburg
Bayern Munich v Eintracht
Unterhaching v Schalke

Sat, March 4

Ulm v Werder Bremen
Wolfsburg v Hamburg
Freiburg v Bielefeld
Schalke v Duisburg
Hertha v Unterhaching
Eintracht v Dortmund
Stuttgart v Bayern Munich
Kaiserslautern v Leverkusen
1860 Munich v Hansa Rostock

Sat, March 11

Hamburg v Ulm
Werder Bremen v Freiburg
Duisburg v Hertha
Hansa Rostock v Dortmund
Bielefeld v 1860 Munich
Stuttgart v Eintracht
Leverkusen v Wolfsburg
Bayern Munich v Schalke
Unterhaching v Kaiserslautern

Sat, March 18

Dortmund v Bielefeld
Eintracht v Hansa Rostock
Freiburg v Hamburg
1860 Munich v Werder Bremen
Schalke v Stuttgart
Ulm v Leverkusen
Wolfsburg v Unterhaching
Hertha v Bayern Munich
Kaiserslautern v Duisburg

Sat, March 25

Bielefeld v Hansa Rostock
Stuttgart v Hertha
Unterhaching v Ulm
Hamburg v 1860 Munich
Leverkusen v Freiburg
Duisburg v Wolfsburg
Bayern Munich v Kaiserslautern
Werder Bremen v Dortmund
Schalke v Eintracht

Sat, April 1

Freiburg v Unterhaching
1860 Munich v Leverkusen
Eintracht v Bielefeld
Ulm v Duisburg
Wolfsburg v Bayern Munich
Kaiserslautern v Stuttgart
Dortmund v Hamburg
Hertha v Schalke
Hansa Rostock v Werder Bremen

Sat, April 8

Stuttgart v Wolfsburg
Werder Bremen v Bielefeld
Unterhaching v 1860 Munich
Leverkusen v Dortmund
Bayern Munich v Ulm
Hamburg v Hansa Rostock
Schalke v Kaiserslautern
Hertha v Eintracht
Duisburg v Freiburg

Sat, April 15

Dortmund v Unterhaching
Kaiserslautern v Hertha
Ulm v Stuttgart
Freiburg v Bayern Munich
1860 Munich v Duisburg
Hansa Rostock v Leverkusen
Wolfsburg v Schalke
Eintracht v Werder Bremen
Bielefeld v Hamburg

Sat, April 22

Unterhaching v Hansa Rostock
Bayern Munich v 1860 Munich
Stuttgart v Freiburg
Leverkusen v Bielefeld
Kaiserslautern v Eintracht
Hamburg v Werder Bremen
Schalke v Ulm
Hertha v Wolfsburg
Duisburg v Dortmund

Sat, April 29

Bielefeld v Unterhaching
1860 Munich v Stuttgart
Eintracht v Hamburg
Ulm v Hertha
Dortmund v Bayern Munich
Hansa Rostock v Duisburg
Werder Bremen v Leverkusen
Wolfsburg v Kaiserslautern
Freiburg v Schalke

Sat, May 6

Bayern Munich v Hansa Rostock
Schalke v 1860 Munich
Stuttgart v Dortmund
Kaiserslautern v Ulm
Eintracht v Wolfsburg
Unterhaching v Werder Bremen
Duisburg v Bielefeld
Hertha v Freiburg
Hamburg v Leverkusen

Sat, May 13

Hamburg v Unterhaching
Ulm v Wolfsburg
Freiburg v Kaiserslautern
1860 Munich v Hertha
Dortmund v Schalke
Hansa Rostock v Stuttgart
Bielefeld v Bayern Munich
Werder Bremen v Duisburg
Leverkusen v Eintracht

Sat, May 20

Eintracht v Ulm
Duisburg v Hamburg
Bayern Munich v Werder Bremen
Stuttgart v Bielefeld
Schalke v Hansa Rostock
Hertha v Dortmund
Kaiserslautern v 1860 Munich
Wolfsburg v Freiburg
Unterhaching v Leverkusen

GREECE

Sun, September 12, 1999

Kalamata v OFI
PAOK v AEK
Xanthi v Aris
Panathinaikos v Trikala

Panahaiki v Ionikos
Ethnikos A v Kavala
Proodeftiki v Olympiakos
Iraklis v Apollon
Panionios v Paniliakos

Sun, September 19

PAOK v Kalamata
OFI v Xanthi
AEK v Panathinaikos
Aris v Panahaiki
Trikala v Ethnikos A
Ionikos v Proodeftiki
Kavala v Iraklis
Olympiakos v Panionios
Apollon v Paniliakos

Sun, September 26

Kalamata v Xanthi
Panathinaikos v PAOK
Panahaiki v OFI
Ethnikos A v AEK
Proodeftiki v Aris
Iraklis v Trikala
Panionios v Ionikos
Paniliakos v Kavala
Apollon v Olympiakos

Sun, October 3

Panathinaikos v Kalamata
Xanthi v Panahaiki
PAOK v Ethnikos A
OFI v Proodeftiki
AEK v Iraklis
Aris v Panionios
Trikala v Paniliakos
Ionikos v Apollon
Kavala v Olympiakos

Sun, October 17

Kalamata v Panahaiki
Ethnikos A v Panathinaikos
Proodeftiki v Xanthi
Iraklis v PAOK
Panionios v OFI
Paniliakos v AEK
Apollon v Aris
Olympiakos v Trikala
Kavala v Ionikos

Sun, October 24

Ethnikos A v Kalamata
Panahaiki v Proodeftiki
Panathinaikos v Iraklis
Xanthi v Panionios
PAOK v Paniliakos
OFI v Apollon
AEK v Olympiakos
Aris v Kavala
Trikala v Ionikos

Sun, October 31

Kalamata v Proodeftiki
Iraklis v Ethnikos A
Panionios v Panahaiki
Paniliakos v Panathinaikos
Apollon v Xanthi
Olympiakos v PAOK
Kavala v OFI
Ionikos v AEK
Trikala v Aris

Sun, November 7

Iraklis v Kalamata
Proodeftiki v Panionios
Ethnikos A v Paniliakos
Panahaiki v Apollon
Panathinaikos v Olympiakos
Xanthi v Kavala
PAOK v Ionikos
OFI v Trikala
AEK v Aris

Sun, November 14

Kalamata v Panionios
Paniliakos v Iraklis
Apollon v Proodeftiki
Olympiakos v Ethnikos A
Kavala v Panahaiki
Ionikos v Panathinaikos
Trikala v Xanthi
Aris v PAOK
AEK v OFI

Sun, November 21

Paniliakos v Kalamata
Panionios v Apollon
Iraklis v Olympiakos
Proodeftiki v Kavala
Ethnikos A v Ionikos
Panahaiki v Trikala
Panathinaikos v Aris
Xanthi v AEK
OFI v PAOK

Sun, November 28

Kalamata v Apollon
Olympiakos v Paniliakos
Kavala v Panionios
Ionikos v Iraklis
Trikala v Proodeftiki
Aris v Ethnikos A
AEK v Panahaiki
OFI v Panathinaikos
PAOK v Xanthi

Sun, December 5

Olympiakos v Kalamata
Apollon v Kavala
Paniliakos v Ionikos
Panionios v Trikala
Iraklis v Aris
Proodeftiki v AEK
Ethnikos A v OFI
Panahaiki v PAOK
Xanthi v Panathinaikos

Sun, December 12

Kalamata v Kavala
Ionikos v Olympiakos
Trikala v Apollon
Aris v Paniliakos
AEK v Panionios
OFI v Iraklis
PAOK v Proodeftiki
Xanthi v Ethnikos A
Panathinaikos v Panahaiki

Sun, December 19

Ionikos v Kalamata
Kavala v Trikala
Olympiakos v Aris
Apollon v AEK
Paniliakos v OFI
Panionios v PAOK
Iraklis v Xanthi
Proodeftiki v Panathinaikos
Panahaiki v Ethnikos A

Wed, December 29

Kalamata v Trikala
Aris v Ionikos
AEK v Kavala
OFI v Olympiakos
PAOK v Apollon
Xanthi v Paniliakos
Panathinaikos v Panionios
Panahaiki v Iraklis
Ethnikos A v Proodeftiki

Sun, January 9, 2000

Aris v Kalamata
Trikala v AEK
Ionikos v OFI
Kavala v PAOK
Olympiakos v Xanthi
Apollon v Panathinaikos
Paniliakos v Panahaiki
Panionios v Ethnikos A
Proodeftiki v Iraklis

Sun, January 16

Kalamata v AEK
OFI v Aris
PAOK v Trikala
Xanthi v Ionikos
Panathinaikos v Kavala
Panahaiki v Olympiakos
Ethnikos A v Apollon
Proodeftiki v Paniliakos
Iraklis v Panionios

Sun, January 23

OFI v Kalamata
AEK v PAOK
Aris v Xanthi
Trikala v Panathinaikos
Ionikos v Panahaiki
Kavala v Ethnikos A
Olympiakos v Proodeftiki
Apollon v Iraklis
Paniliakos v Panionios

Sun, January 30

Kalamata v PAOK
Xanthi v OFI
Panathinaikos v AEK
Panahaiki v Aris
Ethnikos A v Trikala
Proodeftiki v Ionikos
Iraklis v Kavala
Panionios v Olympiakos
Paniliakos v Apollon

Sun, February 6

Xanthi v Kalamata
PAOK v Panathinaikos
OFI v Panahaiki
AEK v Ethnikos A
Aris v Proodeftiki
Trikala v Iraklis
Ionikos v Panionios
Kavala v Paniliakos
Olympiakos v Apollon

Sun, February 13

Kalamata v Panathinaikos
Panahaiki v Xanthi
Ethnikos A v PAOK
Proodeftiki v OFI
Iraklis v AEK
Panionios v Aris
Paniliakos v Trikala
Apollon v Ionikos
Olympiakos v Kavala

Sun, February 20

Panahaiki v Kalamata
Panathinaikos v Ethnikos A
Xanthi v Proodeftiki
PAOK v Iraklis
OFI v Panionios
AEK v Paniliakos
Aris v Apollon
Trikala v Olympiakos
Ionikos v Kavala

Sun, February 27

Kalamata v Ethnikos A
Proodeftiki v Panahaiki
Iraklis v Panathinaikos
Panionios v Xanthi
Paniliakos v PAOK
Apollon v OFI
Olympiakos v AEK
Kavala v Aris
Ionikos v Trikala

Sun, March 5

Proodeftiki v Kalamata
Ethnikos A v Iraklis
Panahaiki v Panionios
Panathinaikos v Paniliakos
Xanthi v Apollon
PAOK v Olympiakos
OFI v Kavala
AEK v Ionikos
Aris v Trikala

Sun, March 12

Kalamata v Iraklis
Panionios v Proodeftiki
Paniliakos v Ethnikos A
Apollon v Panahaiki
Olympiakos v Panathinaikos
Kavala v Xanthi
Ionikos v PAOK
Trikala v OFI
Aris v AEK

Sun, March 19

Panionios v Kalamata
Iraklis v Paniliakos
Proodeftiki v Apollon
Ethnikos A v Olympiakos
Panahaiki v Kavala
Panathinaikos v Ionikos
Xanthi v Trikala
PAOK v Aris
OFI v AEK

Sun, March 26

Kalamata v Paniliakos
Apollon v Panionios
Olympiakos v Iraklis
Kavala v Proodeftiki
Ionikos v Ethnikos A
Trikala v Panahaiki
Aris v Panathinaikos
AEK v Xanthi
PAOK v OFI

Sun, April 2

Apollon v Kalamata
Paniliakos v Olympiakos
Panionios v Kavala
Iraklis v Ionikos
Proodeftiki v Trikala
Ethnikos A v Aris
Panahaiki v AEK
Panathinaikos v OFI
Xanthi v PAOK

Sun, April 9

Kalamata v Olympiakos
Kavala v Apollon
Ionikos v Paniliakos
Trikala v Panionios
Aris v Iraklis
AEK v Proodeftiki
OFI v Ethnikos A
PAOK v Panahaiki
Panathinaikos v Xanthi

Sun, April 16

Kavala v Kalamata
Olympiakos v Ionikos
Apollon v Trikala
Paniliakos v Aris
Panionios v AEK
Iraklis v OFI
Proodeftiki v PAOK
Ethnikos A v Xanthi
Panahaiki v Panathinaikos

Sun, April 23

Kalamata v Ionikos
Trikala v Kavala
Aris v Olympiakos
AEK v Apollon
OFI v Paniliakos
PAOK v Panionios
Xanthi v Iraklis
Panathinaikos v Proodeftiki
Ethnikos A v Panahaiki

Sun, May 7

Trikala v Kalamata
Ionikos v Aris
Kavala v AEK
Olympiakos v OFI
Apollon v PAOK
Paniliakos v Xanthi
Panionios v Panathinaikos
Iraklis v Panahaiki
Proodeftiki v Ethnikos A

Sun, May 14

Kalamata v Aris
AEK v Trikala
OFI v Ionikos
PAOK v Kavala
Xanthi v Olympiakos
Panathinaikos v Apollon
Panahaiki v Paniliakos
Ethnikos A v Panionios
Iraklis v Proodeftiki

Sun, May 21

AEK v Kalamata
Aris v OFI
Trikala v PAOK
Ionikos v Xanthi
Kavala v Panathinaikos
Olympiakos v Panahaiki
Apollon v Ethnikos A
Paniliakos v Proodeftiki
Panionios v Iraklis

HOLLAND

Thur, August 12, 1999

Sparta v Willem II

Fri, August 13

Den Bosch v Feyenoord

Sat, August 14

Cambuur v Vitesse
De Graafschap v Roda JC
Fortuna v AZ
PSV v MVV

Sun, August 15

Ajax v Heerenveen
RKC v Twente
Utrecht v NEC

Fri, August 20

MVV v Ajax

Sat, August 21

Den Bosch v De Graafschap
Heerenveen v Sparta
Roda JC v RKC
Twente v NEC
Willem II v Fortuna

Sun, August 22

Feyenoord v Cambuur
Vitesse v PSV

Fri, August 27

Cambuur v Ajax

Sat, August 28

PSV v Fortuna
Roda JC v NEC
Vitesse v MVV
Willem II v Den Bosch

Sun, August 29

Feyenoord v Heerenveen
RKC v AZ
Utrecht v Twente

Fri, September 10

Ajax v Feyenoord
AZ v Roda JC

Sat, September 11

Fortuna v RKC
Heerenveen v Willem II
MVV v Cambuur
Twente v Vitesse

Sun, September 12

De Graafschap v PSV
Sparta v Utrecht

Wed, September 15

AZ v Utrecht
Sparta v De Graafschap

Fri, September 17

Cambuur v Twente

Sat, September 18

Den Bosch v MVV
Feyenoord v Fortuna
NEC v PSV
Willem II v AZ

Sun, September 19

RKC v Ajax
Roda JC v Heerenveen
Utrecht v De Graafschap
Vitesse v Sparta

Fri, September 24

Ajax v Vitesse

Sat, September 25

PSV v Willem II

Sun, September 26

Cambuur v AZ
Den Bosch v Utrecht
De Graafschap v NEC
Feyenoord v RKC
Heerenveen v Twente
Sparta v MVV

Mon, September 27

Roda JC v Fortuna

Wed, September 29

NEC v Den Bosch

Fri, October 1

MVV v Heerenveen

Sat, October 2

Fortuna v Cambuur
PSV v Sparta
Twente v Den Bosch

Sun, October 3

AZ v Feyenoord
RKC v De Graafschap
Utrecht v Roda JC
Vitesse v NEC
Willem II v Ajax

Mon, October 11

Sparta v Roda JC

Tues, October 12

Feyenoord v Vitesse
Cambuur v Willem II

Wed, October 13

Ajax v Fortuna
Den Bosch v AZ
De Graafschap v MVV
Heerenveen v Utrecht
NEC v Twente
RKC v PSV

Fri, October 15

Roda JC v Feyenoord

Sat, October 16

Fortuna v Heerenveen
MVV v Utrecht
Vitesse v Cambuur
Willem II v RKC

Sun, October 17

De Graafschap v Twente
NEC v Ajax
PSV v Den Bosch
Sparta v AZ

Fri, October 22

AZ v Heerenveen

Sat, October 23

Cambuur v De Graafschap
Fortuna v Sparta
PSV v Twente
Willem II v MVV

Sun, October 24

Ajax v Den Bosch
Feyenoord v NEC
Roda JC v Vitesse
Utrecht v RKC

Fri, October 29

Ajax v Roda JC

Sun, October 31

AZ v PSV
Den Bosch v Cambuur
Heerenveen v De Graafschap
MVV v Fortuna
RKC v NEC
Twente v Sparta
Vitesse v Utrecht

Fri, November 5

NEC v Heerenveen

Sat, November 6

De Graafschap v Willem II
MVV v AZ

Sun, November 7

RKC v Cambuur
Roda JC v Den Bosch
Sparta v Ajax
Twente v Feyenoord
Utrecht v Fortuna

Fri, November 19

AZ v Twente
Cambuur v PSV
MVV v Feyenoord
NEC v Sparta

Sat, November 20

Den Bosch v RKC
Fortuna v De Graafschap
Heerenveen v Vitesse
Willem II v Roda JC

Sun, November 21

Ajax v Utrecht

Fri, November 26

Heerenveen v Cambuur

Sat, November 27

Fortuna v NEC
Twente v Willem II

Sun, November 28

AZ v Ajax
De Graafschap v Vitesse
Feyenoord v PSV
RKC v Sparta
Utrecht v Den Bosch

Tues, November 30

Roda JC v MVV

Wed, December 1

Cambuur v Utrecht
Den Bosch v Heerenveen
De Graafschap v AZ
Feyenoord v Willem II
Twente v Fortuna
Vitesse v RKC

Fri, December 3

PSV v Roda JC

Sat, December 4

Fortuna v Den Bosch
MVV v Twente
Vitesse v AZ
Willem II v Utrecht

Sun, December 5

Ajax v RKC
NEC v Cambuur
Sparta v Feyenoord

Fri, December 10

AZ v Fortuna

Sat, December 11

Cambuur v Sparta
Willem II v NEC

Sun, December 12

Den Bosch v Vitesse
Heerenveen v Feyenoord
RKC v MVV
Roda JC v De Graafschap
Twente v Ajax
Utrecht v PSV

Wed, December 15

Ajax v PSV
Heerenveen v RKC
NEC v MVV
Roda JC v Cambuur
Sparta v Den Bosch
Vitesse v Willem II

Thur, December 16

Feyenoord v De Graafschap

Sat, December 18

AZ v NEC
PSV v Heerenveen
Twente v Roda JC
Willem II v Sparta

Sun, December 19

De Graafschap v Ajax
Fortuna v Vitesse
Utrecht v Feyenoord

Tues, December 21

MVV v PSV

Tues, February 1, 2000

MVV v Roda JC

Wed, February 2

De Graafschap v Cambuur
Fortuna v Ajax
RKC v Willem II
Sparta v Heerenveen
Twente v AZ
Vitesse v Den Bosch

Thur, February 3

PSV v Feyenoord

Fri, February 4

Utrecht v MVV

Sat, February 5

Heerenveen v AZ
NEC v De Graafschap
Sparta v Vitesse
Willem II v Twente

Sun, February 6

Ajax v Cambuur
Den Bosch v PSV
Feyenoord v Roda JC
RKC v Fortuna

Wed, February 9

AZ v Sparta
Cambuur v NEC
Fortuna v Feyenoord
MVV v Den Bosch
Twente v RKC
Vitesse v De Graafschap

Thur, February 10

PSV v Ajax
Roda JC v Utrecht

Sat, February 12

Cambuur v Fortuna
NEC v AZ

Sun, February 13

Ajax v Willem II
Den Bosch v Twente
De Graafschap v Utrecht
Heerenveen v PSV
Vitesse v Feyenoord

Fri, February 18

Utrecht v Heerenveen

Sat, February 19

AZ v Cambuur
Den Bosch v Roda JC
Fortuna v Twente
MVV v Sparta
NEC v RKC
PSV v Vitesse

Sun, February 20

Ajax v De Graafschap
Willem II v Feyenoord

Fri, February 25
Roda JC v PSV
Sparta v NEC

Sat, February 26

Fortuna v Willem II
Twente v Heerenveen

Sun, February 27

Den Bosch v Ajax
Feyenoord v MVV
RKC v Vitesse
Utrecht v AZ

Fri, March 3

AZ v Willem II
Vitesse v Roda JC

Sat, March 4

Cambuur v MVV

Sun, March 5

De Graafschap v Den Bosch
Heerenveen v Ajax
NEC v Utrecht
Sparta v RKC

Fri, March 10

AZ v RKC
NEC v Fortuna

Sat, March 11

MVV v De Graafschap
Willem II v Heerenveen

Sun, March 12

Feyenoord v Den Bosch
PSV v Utrecht
Roda JC v Sparta
Twente v Cambuur

Fri, March 17

Cambuur v Feyenoord

Sat, March 18

Heerenveen v MVV
NEC v Willem II
PSV v De Graafschap

Sun, March 19

Ajax v Twente
RKC v Roda JC
Sparta v Fortuna
Utrecht v Vitesse

Fri, March 24

AZ v Den Bosch
Fortuna v MVV
Willem II v PSV

Sat, March 25

De Graafschap v RKC

Sun, March 26

Ajax v NEC
Cambuur v Roda JC
Feyenoord v Sparta
Twente v Utrecht
Vitesse v Heerenveen

Fri, March 31

Heerenveen v NEC
Roda JC v Ajax

Sat, April 1

Den Bosch v Willem II
De Graafschap v Fortuna
MVV v Vitesse
PSV v AZ

Sun, April 2

RKC v Feyenoord
Sparta v Twente
Utrecht v Cambuur

Fri, April 7

AZ v De Graafschap
Fortuna v PSV
NEC v Roda JC

Sat, April 8

Cambuur v Den Bosch
Twente v MVV
Willem II v Vitesse

Sun, April 9

Ajax v Sparta
Feyenoord v Utrecht
RKC v Heerenveen

Fri, April 14

Utrecht v Sparta

Sat, April 15

Den Bosch v NEC
Heerenveen v Fortuna
MVV v RKC
PSV v Cambuur
Roda JC v Willem II

Sun, April 16

Ajax v AZ
De Graafschap v Feyenoord
Vitesse v Twente

Fri, April 21

AZ v MVV
Fortuna v Utrecht
Twente v PSV

Sat, April 22

Heerenveen v Roda JC
Sparta v Cambuur
Willem II v De Graafschap

Sun, April 23

Feyenoord v Ajax
NEC v Vitesse
RKC v Den Bosch

Fri, April 28

Roda JC v Twente
PSV v RKC
Vitesse v Ajax

Sun, April 30

Den Bosch v Fortuna
Cambuur v Heerenveen
De Graafschap v Sparta
Feyenoord v AZ
MVV v NEC
Utrecht v Willem II

Sun, May 7

Ajax v MVV
AZ v Vitesse
Fortuna v Roda JC
Heerenveen v Den Bosch
NEC v Feyenoord
RKC v Utrecht
Sparta v PSV
Twente v De Graafschap
Willem II v Cambuur

Sun, May 14

Den Bosch v Sparta
Cambuur v RKC
De Graafschap v Heerenveen
MVV v Willem II
PSV v NEC
Roda JC v AZ
Feyenoord v Twente
Utrecht v Ajax
Vitesse v Fortuna

ITALY

Sun, August 29, 1999

Bologna v Torino
Fiorentina v Bari
Inter v Verona
Juventus v Reggina
Lazio v Cagliari
Lecce v Milan
Perugia v Parma
Piacenza v Roma
Venezia v Udinese

Sun, September 12

Bari v Lazio
Cagliari v Juventus
Milan v Perugia
Parma v Bologna
Reggina v Fiorentina
Roma v Inter
Torino v Venezia
Udinese v Piacenza
Verona v Lecce

Sun, September 19

Bari v Milan
Bologna v Reggina
Fiorentina v Verona
Inter v Parma
Juventus v Udinese
Lazio v Torino
Perugia v Cagliari
Piacenza v Lecce
Venezia v Roma

Sun, September 26

Cagliari v Venezia
Lecce v Juventus
Milan v Bologna
Parma v Lazio
Reggina v Piacenza
Roma v Perugia
Torino v Inter
Udinese v Fiorentina
Verona v Bari

Sun, October 3

Bari v Udinese
Bologna v Lecce
Cagliari v Torino
Fiorentina v Roma
Inter v Piacenza
Juventus v Venezia
Lazio v Milan
Parma v Verona
Perugia v Reggina

Sun, October 17

Fiorentina v Parma
Lecce v Reggina
Milan v Cagliari
Piacenza v Bologna
Roma v Juventus
Torino v Bari
Udinese v Lazio
Venezia v Inter
Verona v Perugia

Sun, October 24

Bari v Juventus
Bologna v Verona
Cagliari v Udinese
Inter v Milan
Lazio v Lecce
Perugia v Venezia
Piacenza v Fiorentina
Reggina v Parma
Torino v Roma

Sun, October 31

Fiorentina v Torino
Inter v Lazio
Juventus v Piacenza
Lecce v Perugia
Parma v Bari
Roma v Cagliari
Udinese v Reggina
Venezia v Bologna
Verona v Milan

Sun, November 7

Bologna v Inter
Cagliari v Fiorentina
Lazio v Verona
Lecce v Udinese
Milan v Venezia
Perugia v Bari
Piacenza v Parma
Reggina v Roma
Torino v Juventus

Sun, November 21

Bari v Reggina
Fiorentina v Perugia
Inter v Lecce
Juventus v Milan
Parma v Cagliari
Roma v Lazio
Udinese v Bologna
Venezia v Piacenza
Verona v Torino

Sun, November 28

Bologna v Fiorentina
Cagliari v Bari
Lazio v Juventus
Lecce v Venezia
Milan v Parma
Piacenza v Verona
Reggina v Inter
Torino v Perugia
Udinese v Roma

Sun, December 5

Bari v Piacenza
Fiorentina v Milan
Inter v Udinese
Juventus v Bologna
Parma v Torino
Perugia v Lazio
Roma v Lecce
Venezia v Reggina
Verona v Cagliari

Sun, December 12

Bologna v Roma
Juventus v Inter
Lazio v Fiorentina
Lecce v Bari
Milan v Torino
Piacenza v Perugia
Reggina v Cagliari
Udinese v Verona
Venezia v Parma

Sun, December 19

Bari v Inter
Cagliari v Lecce
Fiorentina v Juventus
Lazio v Piacenza
Milan v Reggina
Parma v Roma
Perugia v Bologna
Torino v Udinese
Verona v Venezia

Thur, January 6, 2000

Bologna v Cagliari
Inter v Perugia
Juventus v Verona
Lecce v Fiorentina
Piacenza v Milan
Reggina v Torino
Roma v Bari
Udinese v Parma
Venezia v Lazio

Sun, January 9

Bari v Venezia
Cagliari v Piacenza
Fiorentina v Inter
Lazio v Bologna
Milan v Roma
Parma v Juventus
Perugia v Udinese
Torino v Lecce
Verona v Reggina

Sun, January 16

Bologna v Bari
Inter v Cagliari
Juventus v Perugia
Lecce v Parma
Piacenza v Torino
Reggina v Lazio
Roma v Verona
Udinese v Milan
Venezia v Fiorentina

Sun, January 23

Torino v Bologna
Bari v Fiorentina
Verona v Inter
Reggina v Juventus
Cagliari v Lazio
Milan v Lecce
Parma v Perugia
Roma v Piacenza
Udinese v Venezia

Sun, January 30

Lazio v Bari
Juventus v Cagliari
Perugia v Milan
Bologna v Parma
Fiorentina v Reggina
Inter v Roma
Venezia v Torino
Piacenza v Udinese
Lecce v Verona

Sun, February 6

Milan v Bari
Reggina v Bologna
Verona v Fiorentina
Parma v Inter
Udinese v Juventus
Torino v Lazio
Cagliari v Perugia
Lecce v Piacenza
Roma v Venezia

Sun, February 13

Venezia v Cagliari
Juventus v Lecce
Bologna v Milan
Lazio v Parma
Piacenza v Reggina
Perugia v Roma
Inter v Torino
Fiorentina v Udinese
Bari v Verona

Sun, February 20

Udinese v Bari
Lecce v Bologna
Torino v Cagliari
Roma v Fiorentina
Piacenza v Inter
Venezia v Juventus
Milan v Lazio
Verona v Parma
Reggina v Perugia

Sun, February 27

Parma v Fiorentina
Reggina v Lecce
Cagliari v Milan
Bologna v Piacenza
Juventus v Roma
Bari v Torino
Lazio v Udinese
Inter v Venezia
Perugia v Verona

Sun, March 5

Juventus v Bari
Verona v Bologna
Udinese v Cagliari
Milan v Inter
Lecce v Lazio
Venezia v Perugia
Fiorentina v Piacenza
Parma v Reggina
Roma v Torino

Sun, March 12

Torino v Fiorentina
Lazio v Inter
Piacenza v Juventus
Perugia v Lecce
Bari v Parma
Cagliari v Roma
Reggina v Udinese
Bologna v Venezia
Milan v Verona

Sun, March 19

Inter v Bologna
Fiorentina v Cagliari
Verona v Lazio
Udinese v Lecce
Venezia v Milan
Bari v Perugia
Parma v Piacenza
Roma v Reggina
Juventus v Torino

Sun, March 26

Reggina v Bari
Perugia v Fiorentina
Lecce v Inter
Milan v Juventus
Cagliari v Parma
Lazio v Roma
Bologna v Udinese
Piacenza v Venezia
Torino v Verona

Sun, April 2

Fiorentina v Bologna
Bari v Cagliari
Juventus v Lazio
Venezia v Lecce
Parma v Milan
Verona v Piacenza
Inter v Reggina
Perugia v Torino
Roma v Udinese

Sun, April 9

Piacenza v Bari
Milan v Fiorentina
Udinese v Inter
Bologna v Juventus
Torino v Parma
Lazio v Perugia
Lecce v Roma
Reggina v Venezia
Cagliari v Verona

Sun, April 16

Roma v Bologna
Inter v Juventus
Fiorentina v Lazio
Bari v Lecce
Torino v Milan
Perugia v Piacenza
Cagliari v Reggina
Verona v Udinese
Parma v Venezia

Sat, April 22

Inter v Bari
Lecce v Cagliari
Juventus v Fiorentina
Piacenza v Lazio
Reggina v Milan
Roma v Parma
Bologna v Perugia
Udinese v Torino
Venezia v Verona

Sun, April 30

Cagliari v Bologna
Perugia v Inter
Verona v Juventus
Fiorentina v Lecce
Milan v Piacenza
Torino v Reggina
Bari v Roma
Parma v Udinese
Lazio v Venezia

Sun, May 7

Venezia v Bari
Piacenza v Cagliari
Inter v Fiorentina
Bologna v Lazio
Roma v Milan
Juventus v Parma
Udinese v Perugia
Lecce v Torino
Reggina v Verona

Sun, May 14

Bari v Bologna
Cagliari v Inter
Perugia v Juventus
Parma v Lecce
Torino v Piacenza
Lazio v Reggina
Verona v Roma
Milan v Udinese
Fiorentina v Venezia

PORTUGAL

Sun, August 22, 1999

Alverca v Sporting Braga
Boavista v FC Porto
Gil Vicente v Campomaiorense
Estrela Amadora v Belenenses
Farense v Uniao Leiria
Vitoria Setubal v Guimaraes
Santa Clara v Sporting Lisbon
Salgueiros v Maritimo
Rio Ave v Benfica

Sun, August 29

Sporting Braga v Rio Ave
FC Porto v Alverca
Campomaiorense v Boavista
Belenenses v Gil Vicente
Uniao Leiria v Estrela Amadora
Guimaraes v Farense
Sporting Lisbon v Vitoria Setubal
Maritimo v Santa Clara
Benfica v Salgueiros

Sun, September 12

Sporting Braga v FC Porto
Alverca v Campomaiorense
Boavista v Belenenses
Gil Vicente v Uniao Leiria
Estrela Amadora v Guimaraes
Farense v Sporting Lisbon
Vitoria Setubal v Maritimo
Santa Clara v Benfica
Rio Ave v Salgueiros

Sun, September 19

FC Porto v Rio Ave
Campomaiorense v Sporting Braga
Belenenses v Alverca
Uniao Leiria v Boavista
Guimaraes v Gil Vicente
Sporting Lisbon v Estrela Amadora
Maritimo v Farense
Benfica v Vitoria Setubal
Salgueiros v Santa Clara

Sun, September 26

FC Porto v Campomaiorense
Sporting Braga v Belenenses
Alverca v Uniao Leiria
Boavista v Guimaraes
Gil Vicente v Sporting Lisbon
Estrela Amadora v Maritimo
Farense v Benfica
Vitoria Setubal v Salgueiros
Rio Ave v Santa Clara

Sun, October 3

Campomaiorense v Rio Ave
Belenenses v FC Porto
Uniao Leiria v Sporting Braga
Guimaraes v Alverca
Sporting Lisbon v Boavista
Maritimo v Gil Vicente
Benfica v Estrela Amadora
Salgueiros v Farense
Santa Clara v Vitoria Setubal

Sun, October 17

Campomaiorense v Belenenses
FC Porto v Uniao Leiria
Sporting Braga v Guimaraes
Alverca v Sporting Lisbon
Boavista v Maritimo
Gil Vicente v Benfica
Estrela Amadora v Salgueiros
Farense v Santa Clara
Rio Ave v Vitoria Setubal

Sun, October 24

Belenenses v Rio Ave
Uniao Leiria v Campomaiorense
Guimaraes v FC Porto
Sporting Lisbon v Sporting Braga
Maritimo v Alverca
Benfica v Boavista
Salgueiros v Gil Vicente
Santa Clara v Estrela Amadora
Vitoria Setubal v Farense

Sun, October 31

Belenenses v Uniao Leiria
Campomaiorense v Guimaraes
FC Porto v Sporting Lisbon
Sporting Braga v Maritimo
Alverca v Benfica
Boavista v Salgueiros
Gil Vicente v Santa Clara
Estrela Amadora v Vitoria Setubal
Rio Ave v Farense

Sun, November 7

Uniao Leiria v Rio Ave
Guimaraes v Belenenses
Sporting Lisbon v Campomaiorense
Maritimo v FC Porto
Benfica v Sporting Braga
Salgueiros v Alverca
Santa Clara v Boavista
Vitoria Setubal v Gil Vicente
Farense v Estrela Amadora

Sun, November 21

Uniao Leiria v Guimaraes
Belenenses v Sporting Lisbon
Campomaiorense v Maritimo
FC Porto v Benfica
Sporting Braga v Salgueiros
Alverca v Santa Clara
Boavista v Vitoria Setubal
Gil Vicente v Farense
Rio Ave v Estrela Amadora

Sun, November 28

Guimaraes v Rio Ave
Sporting Lisbon v Uniao Leiria
Maritimo v Belenenses
Benfica v Campomaiorense
Salgueiros v FC Porto
Santa Clara v Sporting Braga
Vitoria Setubal v Alverca
Farense v Boavista
Estrela Amadora v Gil Vicente

Sun, December 5

Guimaraes v Sporting Lisbon
Uniao Leiria v Maritimo
Belenenses v Benfica
Campomaiorense v Salgueiros
FC Porto v Santa Clara
Sporting Braga v Vitoria Setubal
Alverca v Farense
Boavista v Estrela Amadora
Rio Ave v Gil Vicente

Sun, December 12

Sporting Lisbon v Rio Ave
Maritimo v Guimaraes
Benfica v Uniao Leiria
Salgueiros v Belenenses
Santa Clara v Campomaiorense
Vitoria Setubal v FC Porto
Farense v Sporting Braga
Estrela Amadora v Alverca
Gil Vicente v Boavista

Sun, December 19

Sporting Lisbon v Maritimo
Guimaraes v Benfica
Uniao Leiria v Salgueiros
Belenenses v Santa Clara
Campomaiorense v Vitoria Setubal
FC Porto v Farense
Sporting Braga v Estrela Amadora
Alverca v Gil Vicente
Rio Ave v Boavista

Sun, January 2, 2000

Rio Ave v Maritimo
Benfica v Sporting Lisbon
Salgueiros v Guimaraes
Santa Clara v Uniao Leiria
Vitoria Setubal v Belenenses
Farense v Campomaiorense
Estrela Amadora v FC Porto
Gil Vicente v Sporting Braga
Boavista v Alverca

Sun, January 16

Maritimo v Benfica
Sporting Lisbon v Salgueiros
Guimaraes v Santa Clara
Uniao Leiria v Vitoria Setubal
Belenenses v Farense
Campomaiorense v Estrela Amadora
FC Porto v Gil Vicente
Sporting Braga v Boavista
Alverca v Rio Ave

Sun, January 23

Sporting Braga v Alverca
FC Porto v Boavista
Campomaiorense v Gil Vicente
Belenenses v Estrela Amadora
Uniao Leiria v Farense
Guimaraes v Vitoria Setubal
Sporting Lisbon v Santa Clara
Maritimo v Salgueiros
Benfica v Rio Ave

Sun, January 30

Rio Ave v Sporting Braga
Alverca v FC Porto
Boavista v Campomaiorense
Gil Vicente v Belenenses
Estrela Amadora v Uniao Leiria
Farense v Guimaraes
Vitoria Setubal v Sporting Lisbon
Santa Clara v Maritimo
Salgueiros v Benfica

Sun, February 6

FC Porto v Sporting Braga
Campomaiorense v Alverca
Belenenses v Boavista
Uniao Leiria v Gil Vicente
Guimaraes v Estrela Amadora
Sporting Lisbon v Farense
Maritimo v Vitoria Setubal
Benfica v Santa Clara
Salgueiros v Rio Ave

Sun, February 13

Rio Ave v FC Porto
Sporting Braga v Campomaiorense
Alverca v Belenenses
Boavista v Uniao Leiria
Gil Vicente v Guimaraes
Estrela Amadora v Sporting Lisbon
Farense v Maritimo
Vitoria Setubal v Benfica
Santa Clara v Salgueiros

Sun, February 20

Campomaiorense v FC Porto
Belenenses v Sporting Braga
Uniao Leiria v Alverca
Guimaraes v Boavista
Sporting Lisbon v Gil Vicente
Maritimo v Estrela Amadora
Benfica v Farense
Salgueiros v Vitoria Setubal
Santa Clara v Rio Ave

Sun, February 27

Rio Ave v Campomaiorense
FC Porto v Belenenses
Sporting Braga v Uniao Leiria
Alverca v Guimaraes
Boavista v Sporting Lisbon
Gil Vicente v Maritimo
Estrela Amadora v Benfica
Farense v Salgueiros
Vitoria Setubal v Santa Clara

Sat, March 4

Belenenses v Campomaiorense
Uniao Leiria v FC Porto
Guimaraes v Sporting Braga
Sporting Lisbon v Alverca
Maritimo v Boavista
Benfica v Gil Vicente
Salgueiros v Estrela Amadora
Santa Clara v Farense
Vitoria Setubal v Rio Ave

Sun, March 12

Rio Ave v Belenenses
Campomaiorense v Uniao Leiria
FC Porto v Guimaraes
Sporting Braga v Sporting Lisbon
Alverca v Maritimo
Boavista v Benfica
Gil Vicente v Salgueiros
Estrela Amadora v Santa Clara
Farense v Vitoria Setubal

Sun, March 19

Uniao Leiria v Belenenses
Guimaraes v Campomaiorense
Sporting Lisbon v FC Porto
Maritimo v Sporting Braga
Benfica v Alverca
Salgueiros v Boavista
Santa Clara v Gil Vicente
Vitoria Setubal v Estrela Amadora
Farense v Rio Ave

Sun, March 26

Rio Ave v Uniao Leiria
Belenenses v Guimaraes
Campomaiorense v Sporting Lisbon
FC Porto v Maritimo
Sporting Braga v Benfica
Alverca v Salgueiros
Boavista v Santa Clara
Gil Vicente v Vitoria Setubal
Estrela Amadora v Farense

Sun, April 2

Guimaraes v Uniao Leiria
Sporting Lisbon v Belenenses
Maritimo v Campomaiorense
Benfica v FC Porto
Salgueiros v Sporting Braga
Santa Clara v Alverca
Vitoria Setubal v Boavista
Farense v Gil Vicente
Estrela Amadora v Rio Ave

Sun, April 9

Rio Ave v Guimaraes
Uniao Leiria v Sporting Lisbon
Belenenses v Maritimo
Campomaiorense v Benfica
FC Porto v Salgueiros
Sporting Braga v Santa Clara
Alverca v Vitoria Setubal
Boavista v Farense
Gil Vicente v Estrela Amadora

Sun, April 16

Sporting Lisbon v Guimaraes
Maritimo v Uniao Leiria
Benfica v Belenenses
Salgueiros v Campomaiorense
Santa Clara v FC Porto
Vitoria Setubal v Sporting Braga
Farense v Alverca
Estrela Amadora v Boavista
Gil Vicente v Rio Ave

Sat, April 22

Rio Ave v Sporting Lisbon
Guimaraes v Maritimo
Uniao Leiria v Benfica
Belenenses v Salgueiros
Campomaiorense v Santa Clara
FC Porto v Vitoria Setubal
Sporting Braga v Farense
Alverca v Estrela Amadora
Boavista v Gil Vicente

Sun, April 30

Maritimo v Sporting Lisbon
Benfica v Guimaraes
Salgueiros v Uniao Leiria
Santa Clara v Belenenses
Vitoria Setubal v Campomaiorense
Farense v FC Porto
Estrela Amadora v Sporting Braga
Gil Vicente v Alverca
Boavista v Rio Ave

Sun, May 7

Maritimo v Rio Ave
Sporting Lisbon v Benfica
Guimaraes v Salgueiros
Uniao Leiria v Santa Clara
Belenenses v Vitoria Setubal
Campomaiorense v Farense
FC Porto v Estrela Amadora
Sporting Braga v Gil Vicente
Alverca v Boavista

Sun, May 14

Benfica v Maritimo
Salgueiros v Sporting Lisbon
Santa Clara v Guimaraes
Vitoria Setubal v Uniao Leiria
Farense v Belenenses
Estrela Amadora v Campomaiorense
Gil Vicente v FC Porto
Boavista v Sporting Braga
Rio Ave v Alverca

SCOTLAND

Sat, July 31, 1999

Dundee Utd v Dundee
Hibernian v Motherwell
Rangers v Kilmarnock
St Johnstone v Hearts

Sun, August 1

Aberdeen v Celtic

Sat, August 7

Celtic v St Johnstone
Hearts v Rangers
Kilmarnock v Aberdeen
Motherwell v Dundee Utd

Sun, August 8

Dundee v Hibernian

Sat, August 14

Aberdeen v Dundee
Dundee Utd v Celtic
Hibernian v Hearts
St Johnstone v Kilmarnock

Sun, August 15

Rangers v Motherwell

Sat, August 21

Dundee v Celtic
Kilmarnock v Motherwell
Rangers v Dundee Utd
St Johnstone v Hibernian

Sun, August 22

Hearts v Aberdeen

Sat, August 28

Aberdeen v St Johnstone
Celtic v Hearts
Dundee Utd v Kilmarnock
Hibernian v Rangers
Motherwell v Dundee

Sat, September 11

Dundee Utd v Hibernian
Hearts v Dundee
Rangers v Aberdeen
St Johnstone v Motherwell

Sun, September 12

Kilmarnock v Celtic

Sat, September 18

Aberdeen v Dundee Utd
Celtic v Rangers
Dundee v St Johnstone
Hibernian v Kilmarnock

Mon, September 20

Motherwell v Hearts

Sat, September 25

Dundee Utd v Hearts
Hibernian v Celtic
Kilmarnock v Dundee
Motherwell v Aberdeen
Rangers v St Johnstone

Sat, October 2

Aberdeen v Hibernian
Celtic v Motherwell
Dundee v Rangers
Hearts v Kilmarnock
St Johnstone v
Dundee Utd

Sat, October 16

Celtic v Aberdeen
Hearts v St Johnstone
Kilmarnock v Rangers
Motherwell v Hibernian

Sun, October 17

Dundee v Dundee Utd

Sat, October 23

Aberdeen v Kilmarnock
Dundee Utd v Motherwell
Hibernian v Dundee
Rangers v Hearts

Sun, October 24

St Johnstone v Celtic

Sat, October 30

Aberdeen v Rangers
Celtic v Kilmarnock
Dundee v Hearts
Motherwell v St Johnstone

Sun, October 31

Hibernian v Dundee Utd

Sat, November 6

Dundee Utd v Aberdeen
Hearts v Motherwell
Kilmarnock v Hibernian
St Johnstone v Dundee

Sun, November 7

Rangers v Celtic

Sat, November 13

Aberdeen v Hearts
Celtic v Dundee
Dundee Utd v Rangers
Hibernian v St Johnstone
Motherwell v Kilmarnock

Sat, November 20

Dundee v Motherwell
Hearts v Celtic
Kilmarnock v Dundee Utd
Rangers v Hibernian
St Johnstone v Aberdeen

Sat, November 27

Dundee Utd v St Johnstone
Hibernian v Aberdeen
Kilmarnock v Hearts
Motherwell v Celtic
Rangers v Dundee

Sat, December 4

Aberdeen v Motherwell
Celtic v Hibernian
Dundee v Kilmarnock
Hearts v Dundee Utd
St Johnstone v Rangers

Sat, December 11

Aberdeen v Celtic
Dundee Utd v Dundee
Hibernian v Motherwell
Rangers v Kilmarnock
St Johnstone v Hearts

Sat, December 18

Celtic v Dundee Utd
Dundee v Aberdeen
Hearts v Hibernian
Kilmarnock v St Johnstone
Motherwell v Rangers

Mon, December 27

Aberdeen v Dundee Utd
Celtic v Rangers
Dundee v St Johnstone
Hibernian v Kilmarnock
Motherwell v Hearts

Sat, January 22, 2000

Dundee Utd v Hibernian
Hearts v Dundee
Kilmarnock v Celtic
Rangers v Aberdeen
St Johnstone v Motherwell

Sat, February 5

Aberdeen v St Johnstone
Celtic v Hearts
Dundee Utd v Kilmarnock
Hibernian v Rangers
Motherwell v Dundee

Sat, February 12

Dundee v Celtic
Hearts v Aberdeen
Kilmarnock v Motherwell
Rangers v Dundee Utd
St Johnstone v Hibernian

Sat, February 26

Aberdeen v Hibernian
Celtic v Motherwell
Dundee v Rangers
Hearts v Kilmarnock
St Johnstone v Dundee Utd

Sat, March 4

Dundee Utd v Hearts
Hibernian v Celtic
Kilmarnock v Dundee
Motherwell v Aberdeen
Rangers v St Johnstone

Sat, March 11

Celtic v St Johnstone
Dundee v Hibernian
Hearts v Rangers
Kilmarnock v Aberdeen
Motherwell v Dundee Utd

Sat, March 18

Aberdeen v Dundee
Dundee Utd v Celtic
Hibernian v Hearts
Rangers v Motherwell
St Johnstone v Kilmarnock

Sat, March 25

Dundee Utd v Aberdeen
Hearts v Motherwell
Kilmarnock v Hibernian
St Johnstone v Dundee

Sun, March 26

Rangers v Celtic

Sat, April 1

Aberdeen v Rangers
Celtic v Kilmarnock
Dundee v Hearts
Hibernian v Dundee Utd
Motherwell v St Johnstone

Sat, April 8

Dundee v Motherwell
Hearts v Celtic
Kilmarnock v Dundee Utd
Rangers v Hibernian
St Johnstone v Aberdeen

Sat, April 15

Aberdeen v Hearts
Celtic v Dundee
Dundee Utd v Rangers
Hibernian v St Johnstone
Motherwell v Kilmarnock

Sat, April 22

Aberdeen v Motherwell
Celtic v Hibernian
Dundee v Kilmarnock
Hearts v Dundee Utd
St Johnstone v Rangers

Sat, April 29

Dundee Utd v St Johnstone
Hibernian v Aberdeen
Kilmarnock v Hearts
Motherwell v Celtic
Rangers v Dundee

Sat, May 6

Celtic v Aberdeen
Dundee v Dundee Utd
Hearts v St Johnstone
Kilmarnock v Rangers
Motherwell v Hibernian

Sat, May 13

Aberdeen v Kilmarnock
Dundee Utd v Motherwell
Hibernian v Dundee
Rangers v Hearts
St Johnstone v Celtic

Sat, May 20

Celtic v Dundee Utd
Dundee v Aberdeen
Hearts v Hibernian
Kilmarnock v St Johnstone
Motherwell v Rangers

SPAIN

Sun, August 22, 1999

Mallorca v Real Madrid
Barcelona v Zaragoza
Atletico Madrid v Rayo Vallecano
Numancia v Valladolid
Sevilla v Real Sociedad
Oviedo v Celta Vigo
Valencia v Racing Santander
Malaga v Espanyol
La Coruna v Alaves
Athletic Bilbao v Betis

Sun, August 29

Rayo Vallecano v Mallorca
Real Sociedad v Atletico Madrid
Celta Vigo v Sevilla
Zaragoza v Oviedo
Racing Santander v Barcelona
Espanyol v Valencia
Alaves v Malaga
Betis v La Coruna
Valladolid v Athletic Bilbao
Real Madrid v Numancia

Sun, September 12

Rayo Vallecano v Real Sociedad
Atletico Madrid v Celta Vigo
Sevilla v Zaragoza
Oviedo v Racing Santander
Barcelona v Espanyol
Valencia v Alaves
Malaga v Betis
La Coruna v Valladolid
Athletic Bilbao v Real Madrid
Mallorca v Numancia

Sun, September 19

Real Sociedad v Mallorca
Celta Vigo v Rayo Vallecano
Zaragoza v Atletico Madrid
Racing Santander v Sevilla
Espanyol v Oviedo
Alaves v Barcelona
Betis v Valencia
Valladolid v Malaga
Real Madrid v La Coruna
Numancia v Athletic Bilbao

Sun, September 26

Real Sociedad v Celta Vigo
Rayo Vallecano v Zaragoza
Atletico Madrid v Racing Santander
Sevilla v Espanyol
Oviedo v Alaves
Barcelona v Betis
Valencia v Valladolid
Malaga v Real Madrid
La Coruna v Numancia
Mallorca v Athletic Bilbao

Sun, October 3

Celta Vigo v Mallorca
Zaragoza v Real Sociedad
Racing Santander v Rayo Vallecano
Espanyol v Atletico Madrid
Alaves v Sevilla
Betis v Oviedo
Valladolid v Barcelona
Real Madrid v Valencia
Numancia v Malaga
Athletic Bilbao v La Coruna

Wed, October 13

Celta Vigo v Zaragoza
Real Sociedad v Racing Santander
Rayo Vallecano v Espanyol
Atletico Madrid v Alaves
Sevilla v Betis
Oviedo v Valladolid
Barcelona v Real Madrid
Valencia v Numancia
Malaga v Athletic Bilbao
Mallorca v La Coruna

Sun, October 17

Zaragoza v Mallorca
Racing Santander v Celta Vigo
Espanyol v Real Sociedad
Alaves v Rayo Vallecano
Betis v Atletico Madrid
Valladolid v Sevilla
Real Madrid v Oviedo
Numancia v Barcelona
Athletic Bilbao v Valencia
La Coruna v Malaga

Sun, October 24

Zaragoza v Racing Santander
Celta Vigo v Espanyol
Real Sociedad v Alaves
Rayo Vallecano v Betis
Atletico Madrid v Valladolid
Sevilla v Real Madrid
Oviedo v Numancia
Barcelona v Athletic Bilbao
Valencia v La Coruna
Mallorca v Malaga

Sun, October 31

Racing Santander v Mallorca
Espanyol v Zaragoza
Alaves v Celta Vigo
Betis v Real Sociedad
Valladolid v Rayo Vallecano
Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid
Numancia v Sevilla
Athletic Bilbao v Oviedo
La Coruna v Barcelona
Malaga v Valencia

Sun, November 7

Racing Santander v Espanyol
Zaragoza v Alaves
Celta Vigo v Betis
Real Sociedad v Valladolid
Rayo Vallecano v Real Madrid
Atletico Madrid v Numancia
Sevilla v Athletic Bilbao
Oviedo v La Coruna
Barcelona v Malaga
Mallorca v Valencia

Sun, November 21

Espanyol v Mallorca
Alaves v Racing Santander
Betis v Zaragoza
Valladolid v Celta Vigo
Real Madrid v Real Sociedad
Numancia v Rayo Vallecano
Athletic Bilbao v Atletico Madrid
La Coruna v Sevilla
Malaga v Oviedo
Valencia v Barcelona

Sun, November 28

Espanyol v Alaves
Racing Santander v Betis
Zaragoza v Valladolid
Celta Vigo v Real Madrid
Real Sociedad v Numancia
Rayo Vallecano v Athletic Bilbao
Atletico Madrid v La Coruna
Sevilla v Malaga
Oviedo v Valencia
Mallorca v Barcelona

Sun, December 5

Alaves v Mallorca
Betis v Espanyol
Valladolid v Racing Santander
Real Madrid v Zaragoza
Numancia v Celta Vigo
Athletic Bilbao v Real Sociedad
La Coruna v Rayo Vallecano
Malaga v Atletico Madrid
Valencia v Sevilla
Barcelona v Oviedo

Sun, December 12

Alaves v Betis
Espanyol v Valladolid
Racing Santander v Real Madrid
Zaragoza v Numancia
Celta Vigo v Athletic Bilbao
Real Sociedad v La Coruna
Rayo Vallecano v Malaga
Atletico Madrid v Valencia
Sevilla v Barcelona
Mallorca v Oviedo

Sun, December 19

Betis v Mallorca
Valladolid v Alaves
Real Madrid v Espanyol
Numancia v Racing Santander
Athletic Bilbao v Zaragoza
La Coruna v Celta Vigo
Malaga v Real Sociedad
Valencia v Rayo Vallecano
Barcelona v Atletico Madrid
Oviedo v Sevilla

Sun, December 22

Betis v Valladolid
Alaves v Real Madrid
Espanyol v Numancia
Racing Santander v Athletic Bilbao
Zaragoza v La Coruna
Celta Vigo v Malaga
Real Sociedad v Valencia
Rayo Vallecano v Barcelona
Atletico Madrid v Oviedo
Mallorca v Sevilla

Wed, January 5, 2000

Mallorca v Valladolid
Real Madrid v Betis
Numancia v Alaves
Athletic Bilbao v Espanyol
La Coruna v Racing Santander
Malaga v Zaragoza
Valencia v Celta Vigo
Barcelona v Real Sociedad
Oviedo v Rayo Vallecano
Sevilla v Atletico Madrid

Sun, January 9

Valladolid v Real Madrid
Betis v Numancia
Alaves v Athletic Bilbao
Espanyol v La Coruna
Racing Santander v Malaga
Zaragoza v Valencia
Celta Vigo v Barcelona
Real Sociedad v Oviedo
Rayo Vallecano v Sevilla
Atletico Madrid v Mallorca

Sun, January 16

Rayo Vallecano v Atletico Madrid
Real Sociedad v Sevilla
Celta Vigo v Oviedo
Zaragoza v Barcelona
Racing Santander v Valencia
Espanyol v Malaga
Alaves v La Coruna
Betis v Athletic Bilbao
Valladolid v Numancia
Real Madrid v Mallorca

Sun, January 23

Mallorca v Rayo Vallecano
Atletico Madrid v Real Sociedad
Sevilla v Celta Vigo
Oviedo v Zaragoza
Barcelona v Racing Santander
Valencia v Espanyol
Malaga v Alaves
La Coruna v Betis
Athletic Bilbao v Valladolid
Numancia v Real Madrid

Sun, January 30

Real Sociedad v Rayo Vallecano
Celta Vigo v Atletico Madrid
Zaragoza v Sevilla
Racing Santander v Oviedo
Espanyol v Barcelona
Alaves v Valencia
Betis v Malaga
Valladolid v La Coruna
Real Madrid v Athletic Bilbao
Numancia v Mallorca

Sun, February 6

Mallorca v Real Sociedad
Rayo Vallecano v Celta Vigo
Atletico Madrid v Zaragoza
Sevilla v Racing Santander
Oviedo v Espanyol
Barcelona v Alaves
Valencia v Betis
Malaga v Valladolid
La Coruna v Real Madrid
Athletic Bilbao v Numancia

Sun, February 13

Celta Vigo v Real Sociedad
Zaragoza v Rayo Vallecano
Racing Santander v Atletico Madrid
Espanyol v Sevilla
Alaves v Oviedo
Betis v Barcelona
Valladolid v Valencia
Real Madrid v Malaga
Numancia v La Coruna
Athletic Bilbao v Mallorca

Sun, February 20

Mallorca v Celta Vigo
Real Sociedad v Zaragoza
Rayo Vallecano v Racing Santander
Atletico Madrid v Espanyol
Sevilla v Alaves
Oviedo v Betis
Barcelona v Valladolid
Valencia v Real Madrid
Malaga v Numancia
La Coruna v Athletic Bilbao

Sun, February 27

Zaragoza v Celta Vigo
Racing Santander v Real Sociedad
Espanyol v Rayo Vallecano
Alaves v Atletico Madrid
Betis v Sevilla
Valladolid v Oviedo
Real Madrid v Barcelona
Numancia v Valencia
Athletic Bilbao v Malaga
La Coruna v Mallorca

Sun, March 5

Mallorca v Zaragoza
Celta Vigo v Racing Santander
Real Sociedad v Espanyol
Rayo Vallecano v Alaves
Atletico Madrid v Betis
Sevilla v Valladolid
Oviedo v Real Madrid
Barcelona v Numancia
Valencia v Athletic Bilbao
Malaga v La Coruna

Sun, March 12

Racing Santander v Zaragoza
Espanyol v Celta Vigo
Alaves v Real Sociedad
Betis v Rayo Vallecano
Valladolid v Atletico Madrid
Real Madrid v Sevilla
Numancia v Oviedo
Athletic Bilbao v Barcelona
La Coruna v Valencia
Malaga v Mallorca

Sun, March 19

Mallorca v Racing Santander
Zaragoza v Espanyol
Celta Vigo v Alaves
Real Sociedad v Betis
Rayo Vallecano v Valladolid
Atletico Madrid v Real Madrid
Sevilla v Numancia
Oviedo v Athletic Bilbao
Barcelona v La Coruna
Valencia v Malaga

Sun, March 26

Espanyol v Racing Santander
Alaves v Zaragoza
Betis v Celta Vigo
Valladolid v Real Sociedad
Real Madrid v Rayo Vallecano
Numancia v Atletico Madrid
Athletic Bilbao v Sevilla
La Coruna v Oviedo
Malaga v Barcelona
Valencia v Mallorca

Sun, April 2

Mallorca v Espanyol
Racing Santander v Alaves
Zaragoza v Betis
Celta Vigo v Valladolid
Real Sociedad v Real Madrid
Rayo Vallecano v Numancia
Atletico Madrid v Athletic Bilbao
Sevilla v La Coruna
Oviedo v Malaga
Barcelona v Valencia

Sun, April 9

Alaves v Espanyol
Betis v Racing Santander
Valladolid v Zaragoza
Real Madrid v Celta Vigo
Numancia v Real Sociedad
Athletic Bilbao v Rayo Vallecano
La Coruna v Atletico Madrid
Malaga v Sevilla
Valencia v Oviedo
Barcelona v Mallorca

Sun, April 16

Mallorca v Alaves
Espanyol v Betis
Racing Santander v Valladolid
Zaragoza v Real Madrid
Celta Vigo v Numancia
Real Sociedad v Athletic Bilbao
Rayo Vallecano v La Coruna
Atletico Madrid v Malaga
Sevilla v Valencia
Oviedo v Barcelona

Sun, April 23

Betis v Alaves
Valladolid v Espanyol
Real Madrid v Racing Santander
Numancia v Zaragoza
Athletic Bilbao v Celta Vigo
La Coruna v Real Sociedad
Malaga v Rayo Vallecano
Valencia v Atletico Madrid
Barcelona v Sevilla
Oviedo v Mallorca

Sun, April 30

Mallorca v Betis
Alaves v Valladolid
Espanyol v Real Madrid
Racing Santander v Numancia
Zaragoza v Athletic Bilbao
Celta Vigo v La Coruna
Real Sociedad v Malaga
Rayo Vallecano v Valencia
Atletico Madrid v Barcelona
Sevilla v Oviedo

Sun, May 7

Valladolid v Betis
Real Madrid v Alaves
Numancia v Espanyol
Athletic Bilbao v Racing Santander
La Coruna v Zaragoza
Malaga v Celta Vigo
Valencia v Real Sociedad
Barcelona v Rayo Vallecano
Oviedo v Atletico Madrid
Sevilla v Mallorca

Sun, May 14

Valladolid v Mallorca
Betis v Real Madrid
Alaves v Numancia
Espanyol v Athletic Bilbao
Racing Santander v La Coruna
Zaragoza v Malaga
Celta Vigo v Valencia
Real Sociedad v Barcelona
Rayo Vallecano v Oviedo
Atletico Madrid v Sevilla

Sun, May 21

Real Madrid v Valladolid
Numancia v Betis
Athletic Bilbao v Alaves
La Coruna v Espanyol
Malaga v Racing Santander
Valencia v Zaragoza
Barcelona v Celta Vigo
Oviedo v Real Sociedad
Sevilla v Rayo Vallecano
Mallorca v Atletico Madrid

SWITZERLAND

Wed, July 7, 1999

Delemont v Servette
Grasshopper v Lausanne
Lugano v Basle
Neuchatel Xamax v Aarau
St Gallen v Lucerne
Yverdon v Zurich

Sat, July 10

Lausanne v St Gallen
Lucerne v Delemont
Servette v Lugano

Sun, July 11

Zurich v Grasshopper

Tues, July 13

Aarau v Yverdon

Wed, July 14

Basle v Neuchatel Xamax

Sat, July 17

Delemont v Lausanne
Grasshopper v Aarau
Neuchatel Xamax v Lugano
Servette v Lucerne

Sun, July 18

St Gallen v Zurich

Wed, July 21

Aarau v St Gallen
Lausanne v Servette
Basle v Grasshopper
Lugano v Lucerne
Neuchatel Xamax v Yverdon
Zurich v Delemont

Sat, July 24

Grasshopper v Neuchatel Xamax
Servette v Zurich
Delemont v Aarau
Yverdon v Lugano

Sun, July 25

Lucerne v Lausanne

Sat, July 31

Yverdon v Grasshopper
Basle v Delemont
Lugano v Lausanne
Neuchatel Xamax v St Gallen
Zurich v Lucerne

Sun, August 1

Aarau v Servette

Sat, August 7

Delemont v Neuchatel Xamax
St Gallen v Yverdon
Grasshopper v Lugano
Lausanne v Zurich
Lucerne v Aarau

Sat, August 14

Yverdon v Delemont
Aarau v Lausanne
Basle v Lucerne
Neuchatel Xamax v Servette

Sun, August 15

Grasshopper v St Gallen
Lugano v Zurich

Sat, August 21

Delemont v Grasshopper
St Gallen v Lugano
Lausanne v Basle
Lucerne v Neuchatel Xamax
Zurich v Aarau

Sat, August 28

St Gallen v Delemont
Yverdon v Lucerne
Lugano v Aarau
Neuchatel Xamax v Lausanne

Sun, August 29

Basle v Zurich
Grasshopper v Servette

Sat, September 11

Aarau v Basle
Lausanne v Yverdon
Lucerne v Grasshopper
Servette v St Gallen
Zurich v Neuchatel Xamax

Sun, September 12

Delemont v Lugano

Sat, September 18

Aarau v Neuchatel Xamax
Basle v Lugano
Lucerne v St Gallen
Servette v Delemont
Zurich v Yverdon

Sun, September 19

Lausanne v Grasshopper

Sat, September 25

St Gallen v Lausanne
Yverdon v Aarau
Grasshopper v Zurich
Lugano v Servette
Neuchatel Xamax v Basle

Sun, September 26

Delemont v Lucerne

Sat, October 2

Aarau v Grasshopper
Basle v Yverdon
Lugano v Neuchatel Xamax
Lucerne v Servette
Zurich v St Gallen

Sun, October 3

Lausanne v Delemont

Sat, October 16

St Gallen v Aarau
Servette v Lausanne

Sun, October 17

Delemont v Zurich
Grasshopper v Basle
Lucerne v Lugano
Yverdon v Neuchatel Xamax

Sat, October 23

Basle v St Gallen
Neuchatel Xamax v Grasshopper
Lausanne v Lucerne

Sun, October 24

Aarau v Delemont
Lugano v Yverdon
Zurich v Servette

Sat, October 30

Lausanne v Lugano
Servette v Aarau

Sun, October 31

Delemont v Basle
Grasshopper v Yverdon
Lucerne v Zurich
St Gallen v Neuchatel Xamax

Sat, November 6

Basle v Servette
Neuchatel Xamax v Delemont

Sun, November 7

Aarau v Lucerne
Lugano v Grasshopper
Yverdon v St Gallen
Zurich v Lausanne

Sat, November 20

Lausanne v Aarau
Servette v Neuchatel Xamax

Sun, November 21

Delemont v Yverdon
Lucerne v Basle
St Gallen v Grasshopper
Zurich v Lugano

Sat, November 27

Basle v Lausanne
Neuchatel Xamax v Lucerne

Sun, November 28

Aarau v Zurich
Grasshopper v Delemont
Lugano v St Gallen
Yverdon v Servette

Sun, December 5

Aarau v Lugano
Delemont v St Gallen
Lausanne v Neuchatel Xamax
Lucerne v Yverdon
Servette v Grasshopper
Zurich v Basle

Sun, December 12

Basle v Aarau
Grasshopper v Lucerne
Lugano v Delemont

Neuchatel Xamax v Zurich
St Gallen v Servette
Yverdon v Lausanne

TURKEY

August 6-8, 1999

Genclerbirligi v Besiktas
Bursaspor v Altay
Erzurum v Denizlispor
Fenerbahce v Vanspor
Galatasaray v Gaziantepspor
Goztepe v Kocaelispor
Antalyaspor v Istanbulspor
Adanaspor v Trabzonspor
Samsunspor v Ankaragucu

August 13-15

Vanspor v Erzurum
Trabzonspor v Galatasaray
Gaziantepspor v Antalyaspor
Istanbulspor v Bursaspor
Kocaelispor v Fenerbahce
Denizlispor v Genclerbirligi
Besiktas v Samsunspor
Altay v Goztepe
Ankaragucu v Adanaspor

August 20-22

Samsunspor v Adanaspor
Erzurum v Kocaelispor
Bursaspor v Gaziantepspor
Genclerbirligi v Vanspor
Fenerbahce v Altay
Goztepe v Istanbulspor
Galatasaray v Ankaragucu
Besiktas v Denizlispor
Antalyaspor v Trabzonspor

August 27-29

Istanbulspor v Fenerbahce
Kocaelispor v Genclerbirligi
Adanaspor v Galatasaray
Gaziantepspor v Goztepe
Altay v Erzurum
Vanspor v Besiktas
Denizlispor v Samsunspor
Trabzonspor v Bursaspor
Ankaragucu v Antalyaspor

September 10-12

Genclerbirligi v Altay
Denizlispor v Vanspor
Besiktas v Kocaelispor
Samsunspor v Galatasaray
Erzurum v Istanbulspor
Fenerbahce v Gaziantepspor
Goztepe v Trabzonspor
Bursaspor v Ankaragucu
Antalyaspor v Adanaspor

September 17-19

Kocaelispor v Denizlispor
Vanspor v Samsunspor
Ankaragucu v Goztepe
Gaziantepspor v Erzurum
Istanbulspor v Genclerbirligi
Altay v Besiktas
Galatasaray v Antalyaspor
Adanaspor v Bursaspor
Trabzonspor v Fenerbahce

September 24-26

Genclerbirligi v Gaziantepspor
Goztepe v Adanaspor
Vanspor v Kocaelispor
Erzurum v Trabzonspor
Fenerbahce v Ankaragucu
Bursaspor v Galatasaray
Denizlispor v Altay
Besiktas v Istanbulspor
Samsunspor v Antalyaspor

October 1-3

Ankaragucu v Erzurum
Istanbulspor v Denizlispor
Adanaspor v Fenerbahce
Gaziantepspor v Besiktas
Altay v Vanspor
Kocaelispor v Samsunspor
Antalyaspor v Bursaspor
Galatasaray v Goztepe
Trabzonspor v Genclerbirligi

October 15-17

Fenerbahce v Galatasaray
Kocaelispor v Altay
Besiktas v Trabzonspor
Genclerbirligi v Ankaragucu
Erzurum v Adanaspor
Goztepe v Antalyaspor
Vanspor v Istanbulspor
Denizlispor v Gaziantepspor
Samsunspor v Bursaspor

October 22-24

Galatasaray v Erzurum
Trabzonspor v Denizlispor
Ankaragucu v Besiktas
Gaziantepspor v Vanspor
Istanbulspor v Kocaelispor
Altay v Samsunspor
Bursaspor v Goztepe
Antalyaspor v Fenerbahce
Adanaspor v Genclerbirligi

October 29-31

Kocaelispor v Gaziantepspor
Vanspor v Trabzonspor
Samsunspor v Goztepe
Genclerbirligi v Galatasaray
Erzurum v Antalyaspor
Fenerbahce v Bursaspor
Altay v Istanbulspor
Denizlispor v Ankaragucu
Besiktas v Adanaspor

November 5-7

Bursaspor v Erzurum
Galatasaray v Besiktas
Trabzonspor v Kocaelispor
Ankaragucu v Vanspor
Gaziantepspor v Altay
Istanbulspor v Samsunspor
Goztepe v Fenerbahce
Antalyaspor v Genclerbirligi
Adanaspor v Denizlispor

November 19-21

Genclerbirligi v Bursaspor
Vanspor v Adanaspor
Denizlispor v Galatasaray
Erzurum v Goztepe
Istanbulspor v Gaziantepspor
Altay v Trabzonspor
Kocaelispor v Ankaragucu
Besiktas v Antalyaspor
Samsunspor v Fenerbahce

November 26-28

Fenerbahce v Erzurum
Goztepe v Genclerbirligi
Trabzonspor v Istanbulspor
Ankaragucu v Altay
Gaziantepspor v Samsunspor
Bursaspor v Besiktas
Antalyaspor v Denizlispor
Galatasaray v Vanspor
Adanaspor v Kocaelispor

December 3-5

Genclerbirligi v Fenerbahce
Altay v Adanaspor
Denizlispor v Bursaspor
Erzurum v Samsunspor
Istanbulspor v Ankaragucu
Kocaelispor v Galatasaray
Vanspor v Antalyaspor
Besiktas v Goztepe
Trabzonspor v Gaziantepspor

December 10-12

Goztepe v Denizlispor
Galatasaray v Altay
Samsunspor v Trabzonspor
Ankaragucu v Gaziantepspor
Erzurum v Genclerbirligi
Fenerbahce v Besiktas
Bursaspor v Vanspor
Antalyaspor v Kocaelispor
Adanaspor v Istanbulspor

December 17-19

Genclerbirligi v Samsunspor
Kocaelispor v Bursaspor
Besiktas v Erzurum
Gaziantepspor v Adanaspor
Istanbulspor v Galatasaray
Altay v Antalyaspor
Vanspor v Goztepe
Denizlispor v Fenerbahce
Trabzonspor v Ankaragucu

January 28-30, 2000

Besiktas v Genclerbirligi
Altay v Bursaspor
Denizlispor v Erzurum
Vanspor v Fenerbahce
Gaziantepspor v Galatasaray
Kocaelispor v Goztepe
Istanbulspor v Antalyaspor
Trabzonspor v Adanaspor
Ankaragucu v Samsunspor

February 4-6

Erzurum v Vanspor
Galatasaray v Trabzonspor
Antalyaspor v Gaziantepspor
Bursaspor v Istanbulspor
Fenerbahce v Kocaelispor
Genclerbirligi v Denizlispor
Samsunspor v Besiktas
Goztepe v Altay
Adanaspor v Ankaragucu

February 11-13

Adanaspor v Samsunspor
Kocaelispor v Erzurum
Gaziantepspor v Bursaspor
Vanspor v Genclerbirligi
Altay v Fenerbahce
Istanbulspor v Goztepe
Ankaragucu v Galatasaray
Denizlispor v Besiktas
Trabzonspor v Antalyaspor

February 18-20

Fenerbahce v Istanbulspor
Genclerbirligi v Kocaelispor
Galatasaray v Adanaspor
Goztepe v Gaziantepspor
Erzurum v Altay
Besiktas v Vanspor
Samsunspor v Denizlispor
Bursaspor v Trabzonspor
Antalyaspor v Ankaragucu

February 25-27

Altay v Genclerbirligi
Vanspor v Denizlispor
Kocaelispor v Besiktas
Galatasaray v Samsunspor
Istanbulspor v Erzurum
Gaziantepspor v Fenerbahce
Trabzonspor v Goztepe
Ankaragucu v Bursaspor
Adanaspor v Antalyaspor

March 3-5

Denizlispor v Kocaelispor
Samsunspor v Vanspor
Goztepe v Ankaragucu
Erzurum v Gaziantepspor
Genclerbirligi v Istanbulspor
Besiktas v Altay
Antalyaspor v Galatasaray
Bursaspor v Adanaspor
Fenerbahce v Trabzonspor

March 10-12

Gaziantepspor v Genclerbirligi
Adanaspor v Goztepe
Kocaelispor v Vanspor
Trabzonspor v Erzurum
Ankaragucu v Fenerbahce
Galatasaray v Bursaspor
Altay v Denizlispor
Istanbulspor v Besiktas
Antalyaspor v Samsunspor

March 17-19

Erzurum v Ankaragucu
Denizlispor v Istanbulspor
Fenerbahce v Adanaspor
Besiktas v Gaziantepspor
Vanspor v Altay
Samsunspor v Kocaelispor
Bursaspor v Antalyaspor
Goztepe v Galatasaray
Genclerbirligi v Trabzonspor

March 24-26

Galatasaray v Fenerbahce
Altay v Kocaelispor
Trabzonspor v Besiktas
Ankaragucu v Genclerbirligi
Adanaspor v Erzurum
Antalyaspor v Goztepe
Istanbulspor v Vanspor
Gaziantepspor v Denizlispor
Bursaspor v Samsunspor

March 31-April 2

Erzurum v Galatasaray
Denizlispor v Trabzonspor
Besiktas v Ankaragucu
Vanspor v Gaziantepspor
Kocaelispor v Istanbulspor
Samsunspor v Altay
Goztepe v Bursaspor
Fenerbahce v Antalyaspor
Genclerbirligi v Adanaspor

April 7-9

Gaziantepspor v Kocaelispor
Trabzonspor v Vanspor
Goztepe v Samsunspor
Galatasaray v Genclerbirligi
Antalyaspor v Erzurum
Bursaspor v Fenerbahce
Istanbulspor v Altay
Ankaragucu v Denizlispor
Adanaspor v Besiktas

April 14-16

Erzurum v Bursaspor
Besiktas v Galatasaray
Kocaelispor v Trabzonspor
Vanspor v Ankaragucu
Altay v Gaziantepspor
Samsunspor v Istanbulspor
Fenerbahce v Goztepe
Genclerbirligi v Antalyaspor
Denizlispor v Adanaspor

April 21-23

Bursaspor v Genclerbirligi
Adanaspor v Vanspor
Galatasaray v Denizlispor
Goztepe v Erzurum
Gaziantepspor v Istanbulspor
Trabzonspor v Altay
Ankaragucu v Kocaelispor
Antalyaspor v Besiktas
Fenerbahce v Samsunspor

April 28-30

Erzurum v Fenerbahce
Genclerbirligi v Goztepe
Istanbulspor v Trabzonspor
Altay v Ankaragucu
Samsunspor v Gaziantepspor
Besiktas v Bursaspor
Denizlispor v Antalyaspor
Vanspor v Galatasaray
Kocaelispor v Adanaspor

May 5-7

Fenerbahce v Genclerbirligi
Adanaspor v Altay
Bursaspor v Denizlispor
Samsunspor v Erzurum
Ankaragucu v Istanbulspor
Galatasaray v Kocaelispor
Antalyaspor v Vanspor
Goztepe v Besiktas
Gaziantepspor v Trabzonspor

May 12-14

Denizlispor v Goztepe
Altay v Galatasaray
Trabzonspor v Samsunspor
Gaziantepspor v Ankaragucu
Genclerbirligi v Erzurum
Besiktas v Fenerbahce
Vanspor v Bursaspor
Kocaelispor v Antalyaspor
Istanbulspor v Adanaspor

May 19-21

Samsunspor v Genclerbirligi
Bursaspor v Kocaelispor
Erzurum v Besiktas
Adanaspor v Gaziantepspor
Galatasaray v Istanbulspor
Antalyaspor v Altay
Goztepe v Vanspor
Fenerbahce v Denizlispor
Ankaragucu v Trabzonspor

UKRAINE

Mon, July 12

Kryvbas v Dynamo
Shakhtar v Zirka
Vorskla v Dnipro
Metalurh Z v Tavriya
Metalurh M v Chornomorets
Prykarpattya v Metalurh D
Nyva v Karpaty
CSKA v Metalist

Fri, July 16

Dynamo v Metalist
Karpaty v CSKA
Chornomorets v Nyva
Metalurh D v Metalurh M
Zirka v Prykarpattya
Tavriya v Shakhtar
Dnipro v Metalurh Z
Kryvbas v Vorskla

Tues, July 20

Vorskla v Dynamo
Metalurh Z v Kryvbas
Shakhtar v Dnipro
Prykarpattya v Tavriya
Metalurh M v Zirka
Nyva v Metalurh D
CSKA v Chornomorets
Metalist v Karpaty

Sat, July 24

Dynamo v Karpaty
Chornomorets v Metalist
Metalurh D v CSKA
Zirka v Nyva
Tavriya v Metalurh M
Dnipro v Prykarpattya
Kryvbas v Shakhtar
Vorskla v Metalurh Z

Sun, August 1

Shakhtar v Vorskla
Prykarpattya v Kryvbas
Metalurh M v Dnipro
Nyva v Tavriya
CSKA v Zirka
Metalist v Metalurh D
Karpaty v Chornomorets

Sat, August 7

Dynamo v Chornomorets
Metalurh D v Karpaty
Zirka v Metalist
Tavriya v CSKA
Dnipro v Nyva
Kryvbas v Metalurh M
Vorskla v Prykarpattya
Metalurh Z v Shakhtar

Sun, August 15

Shakhtar v Dynamo
Prykarpattya v Metalurh Z
Metalurh M v Vorskla
Nyva v Kryvbas
CSKA v Dnipro
Metalist v Tavriya
Karpaty v Zirka
Chornomorets v Metalurh D

Sat, August 21

Dynamo v Metalurh D
Zirka v Chornomorets
Tavriya v Karpaty
Dnipro v Metalist
Kryvbas v CSKA
Vorskla v Nyva
Metalurh Z v Metalurh M
Shakhtar v Prykarpattya

Sun, August 29

Prykarpattya v Dynamo
Metalurh M v Shakhtar
Nyva v Metalurh Z
CSKA v Vorskla
Metalist v Kryvbas
Karpaty v Dnipro
Chornomorets v Tavriya
Metalurh D v Zirka

Sat, September 25

Dynamo v Zirka
Tavriya v Metalurh D
Dnipro v Chornomorets
Kryvbas v Karpaty
Vorskla v Metalist
Metalurh Z v CSKA
Shakhtar v Nyva
Prykarpattya v Metalurh M

Sun, October 3

Metalurh M v Dynamo
Nyva v Prykarpattya
CSKA v Shakhtar
Metalist v Metalurh Z
Karpaty v Vorskla
Chornomorets v Kryvbas
Metalurh D v Dnipro
Zirka v Tavriya

Sat, October 16

Dynamo v Tavriya
Dnipro v Zirka
Kryvbas v Metalurh D
Vorskla v Chornomorets
Metalurh Z v Karpaty
Shakhtar v Metalist
Prykarpattya v CSKA
Metalurh M v Nyva

Sun, October 24

Nyva v Dynamo
CSKA v Metalurh M
Metalist v Prykarpattya
Karpaty v Shakhtar
Chornomorets v Metalurh Z
Metalurh D v Vorskla
Zirka v Kryvbas
Tavriya v Dnipro

Sun, October 31

Dynamo v Dnipro
Kryvbas v Tavriya
Vorskla v Zirka
Metalurh Z v Metalurh D
Shakhtar v Chornomorets
Prykarpattya v Karpaty
Metalurh M v Metalist
Nyva v CSKA

Sun, November 7

CSKA v Dynamo
Metalist v Nyva
Karpaty v Metalurh M
Chornomorets v Prykarpattya
Metalurh D v Shakhtar
Zirka v Metalurh Z
Tavriya v Vorskla
Dnipro v Kryvbas

Thur, November 11

Metalurh Z v Dynamo

INTERNATIONALS

Sunday, July 18

July 18 - Mbabane - Cosafa Castle Cup quarter-final
Swaziland 1 (Mdluli pen 89)
Zimbabwe 1 (Tembo 61)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000
Agg 2-2. Swaziland 4-3 on pens
Swaziland: Sipho Dube - Shobane Dube, Ngubane, Maseko, Mkhulisi, Mthethwa, Mkhwanazi (Nhlabatsi 80), Nkambule (Zikalala 60), Sibusiso Dlamini, Siza Dlamini, Masina (Mdluli 69).
Zimbabwe: Mugadza - Tembo, Chikoya, Ncube, Mpofu, Maenzanise (Dube 55), Shereni, Mugeyi, Mwaruwaru, Mushangazhike (Daka 80), Rinhemota.

July 18 - Dakar - AfNC qual play-offs
Senegal 6 (Sene 2, Keita 21, 51, Omar Traore 30, 40, Ndiaye 60)
Eritrea 2 (Abrahas 58, Tshesalan 67)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 20,000

Saturday, July 24

July 24 - Guadalajara - Confederations Cup
Brazil 4 (Ze Roberto 62, Ronaldinho 70, Alex 85, 88)
Germany 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Alcala (Mex)
Brazil: Dida - Evanilson, Odvan, Joao Carlos, Serginho - Vampeta, Flavio Conceicao (Alex 59), Emerson Ferreira, Ze Roberto (Beto 82) - Ronaldinho, Christian (Warley 59).
Germany: Lehmann - Worns, Matthaus, Linke - Ricken, Ballack, Wosz, Heinrich (Maul 75) - Neuville (Gerber 79), Preetz (Marschall 73), Scholl.

July 24 - Guadalajara - Confederations Cup
United States 2 (McBride 26, Kirovski 57)
New Zealand 1 (Zoricich 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Aquino (Par)
USA: Keller - Frasier, Llamosa, Agoos - Stewart (Olsen 73), Williams, Harkes, Lewis (Hejduk 78) - Kirovski - Jones (Moore 82), McBride.
New Zealand: Utting - Vicelich, Douglas (Smith 73), Zoricich, Atkinson (Nelson 57) - Lines, Jackson, Wilkinson, Burton - Coveny (Ekrick 74), Boukenooghe.

Sunday, July 25

July 25 - Mexico City - Confederations Cup
Bolivia 2 (Gutierrez 20, Ribera 40)
Egypt 2 (Sabry 7, Radwan 62)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 100,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Bolivia: Fernandez - Pena, Arana, Gutierrez (Etcheverry 71), Tufino, Galindo (Soria 60), Botero (Menacho 46), E Sanchez, Justiniano, Ivan Castillo, Ribera.
Egypt: El Hadary - Ibrahim Hassan, Ramzy, Mehdat, Youssef, Radwan, Hossam Hassan (Basyouny 61), Sabry (Al Amin 75), Emam (Khashba 84), El Saka, Ahmed.

July 25 - Mexico City - Confederations Cup
Mexico 5 (Blanco 10, 18, 67, 77, Abundis 21)
Saudi Arabia 1 (Al Temyat pen 63)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 100,000. **Ref:** Ruiz Acosta (Col)
Mexico: Campos - Suarez, Marquez, Villa, Garcia Aspe (Rafael Garcia 65), Abundis, Blanco, Pardo, Palencia (Terrazas 80), Carmona, Zepeda (Arellano 46).
Saudi Arabia: Al Deayea - Al Jahani, Al Khilaiwi, Al Dawod, Al Harbi (Bin Shehan 84), Ibrahim Al Shahrani, Sulimani, Al Subiae, Al Temyat (Abdullah Al Shahrani 84), Falatah, Harthi.

Tuesday, July 27

July 27 - Mexico City - Confederations Cup
Bolivia 0
Saudi Arabia 0
Att: 7,000. **Ref:** Hall (USA)
Bolivia: Fernandez - Arana, Alvarez, Oscar Sanchez, Tufino, Moreno (Botero 73), Etcheverry (Galindo 53), Erwin Sanchez (Gutierrez 46), Menacho, Soria, Ribera.
Saudi Arabia: Al Deayea - Mohammed Al Jahani (Abdullah Al Shahrani 66), Al Khilaiwi, Al Dawod, Al Harbi, Ibrahim Al Shahrani, Sulimani, Al Subiae, Al Temyat, Falatah (Al Otaibi 46), Harthi.

July 27 - Mexico City - Confederations Cup
Mexico 2 (Pardo 15, Abundis 26)
Egypt 2 (Ahmed 79, Ibrahim 85)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Kim Young-joo (SKo)
Mexico: Campos - Suarez, Marquez, Villa, Ramirez, Abundis (Garcia Aspe 55), Blanco, Pardo, Palencia, Carmona, Rafael Garcia.
Egypt: El Hadary - Hassan - Ramzy, Ibrahim, Medhat, Youssef, Radwan, Sabry, Emam, El Saka, Ahmed. *Sent off: Radwan 64min.*

Wednesday, July 28

July 28 - Guadalajara - Confederations Cup
Germany 2 (Preetz 6, Matthaus 33)
New Zealand 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Codjia (Ben)
Germany: Lehmann - Worns, Heinrich, Linke, Scholl (Wosz 46), Marschall (Rink 64), Matthaus (Ballack 70), Preetz, Neuville, Schneider, Ricken.
New Zealand: Batty - Zoricich (Perry 78), Douglas, Wilkinson, Burton (Elrick 78), Lines, Jackson (Coveny 62), Atkinson, Bouckenooghe, Nelsen, Vicelich.

July 28 - Guadalajara - Confederations Cup
Brazil 1 (Ronaldinho 13)
United States 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Brazil: Dida - Evanilson, Odvan, Joao Carlos, Serginho, Flavio Conceicao (Alex 67), Emerson, Ze Roberto, Vampeta, Ronaldinho (Beto 80), Christian (Warley 46).
USA: Keller - Berhalter, Fraser, Harkes (Moore 56), Agoos, Llamosa (Lewis 67), Hejduk, Jones, Stewart, Kirovski, McBride.

Thursday, July 29

July 29 - Mexico City - Confederations Cup
Saudi Arabia 5 (Al Otaibi 8, 34, 78, 85, Ibrahim Al Shahrani 64)
Egypt 1 (Ibrahim 70)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Aquino (Par)
Saudi Arabia: Al Deayea - Al Jahani (Gahwji 82), Zubromawi, Al Dawod, Al Harbi (Abdullah Al Shahrani 64), Ibrahim Al Shahrani, Al Otaibi, Sulimani, Al Subaie, Al Temyat (Bin Shehan, 46), Harthi.
Egypt: El Hadary - Hassan, Ramzy, Ibrahim, Medhat, Youssef, Sabry, Rayyan (Walid 64), Emam, El Saka (Basyouny 42), Ahmed (Al Amin 54). *Sent off: Sabry 26min, Emam 37min, Ibrahim 79min.*

July 29 - Mexico City - Confederations Cup
Mexico 1 (Palencia 52)
Bolivia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Ruiz Acosta (Col)
Mexico: Campos - Suarez, Marquez, Villa (Arellano 65), Ramirez, Blanco, Pardo, Hernandez (Abundis 22), Palencia, Carmona, Zepeda.
Bolivia: Fernandez - Arana, Oscar Sanchez, Cristaldo, Tufino, Moreno (Botero 78), Erwin Sanchez, Menacho (Etcheverry 66), Soria (Gutierrez 46), Ivan Castillo, Ribera.

Friday, July 30

July 30 - Guadalajara - Confederations Cup
United States 2 (Olsen 23, Moore 50)
Germany 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Alcala (Mex)
USA: Friedel - Hejduk, Brown, Lewis, Moore (Kirovski 82), Bravo (McBride 77), Agoos, McKeon, Williams, Balboa, Olsen (Stewart 65).
Germany: Lehmann - Worns, Heinrich (Dogan 41), Linke, Wosz, Matthaus, Preetz, Neuville, Schneider, Gerber (Maul 76), Heldt (Rink 60).

July 30 - Guadalajara - Confederations Cup
Brazil 2 (Marcos Paulo 44, Ronaldinho 88)
New Zealand 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Kim Young-joo (SKo)
Brazil: Dida - Evanilson, Flavio Conceicao, Christian (Ronaldinho 64), Alex, Cesar, Luis Alberto, Marcos Paulo (Roni 56), Athirson, Beto, Warley.
New Zealand: Utting - Zoricich, Douglas, Bunce (Vicelich 82), Burton, Lines, Jackson (Perry 85), Ngata (Coveny 66), Atkinson, Bouckenooghe, Nelsen.

Saturday, July 31

July 31 - Harare - AfNC qual play-off
Zimbabwe 2 (Ndlovu 8, Sawu 55)
Senegal 1 (Omar Traore 77)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000

July 31 - Windhoek - Cosafa Castle Cup quarter-final
Namibia 1 (Hindjou 50)
South Africa 1 (Ndlanya 32)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 23,000. *Namibia 4-1 on pens*
Namibia: Kanalelo - Tjihero, Doseb (Mbaisa 77), Goagoseb, Mannetti, Tjikuzu, Hindjou, Uutoni, Nauseb, Benjamin, Jacobs.
South Africa: Baloyi - Mnguni, F McCarthy (Booth 70), Khomane, Sapula (J McCarthy 88), Mngomeni, Masilela (Hartley 73), Phiri, Lekoelea, Bartlett, Ndlanya.

Sunday, August 1

Aug 1 - Mexico City - Confederations Cup semi-final
Mexico 1 (Blanco 97)
United States 0
HT: 0-0. **90mins:** 0-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Kim (SKo)
Mexico on golden goal
Mexico: Campos - Suarez, Marquez, Torrado (Zepeda 58), Villa, Ramirez (Arellano 72), Abundis, Blanco, Pardo, Terrazas (Palencia 46), Carmona.
USA: Keller - Hejduk, Berhalter, Fraser, Harkes, Stewart, Kirovski, Agoos, Jones, Williams, McBride.

Aug 1 - Guadalajara - Confederations Cup semi-final
Brazil 8 (Joao Carlos 8, Ronaldinho 11, 65, 90, Ze Roberto 33, Alex 36, 86, Roni 62)
Saudi Arabia 2 (Al Otaibi 22, 31)
HT: 4-2. **Att:** 48,000. **Ref:** Ruiz Acosta (Col)
Brazil: Dida - Evanilson (Flavio Conceicao 16), Odvan, Joao Carlos, Serginho, Ronaldo Assis, Emerson (Beto 72), Christian (Roni 46), Alex, Ze Roberto, Vampeta.
Saudi Arabia: Al Deayea - Al Khilaiwi, Zubromawi (Hwsawi 64), Al Dawod, Al Harbi, Ibrahim Al Shahrani (Al Jahani 43), Al Otaibi, Sulimani, Al Subaie, Temyat, Harthi.

Saturday, August 7

Aug 7 - Lusaka - Cosafa Castle Cup quarter-final
Zambia 1 (Taulito 68)
Mozambique 1 (Siame 21)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000
Zambia 4-3 on pens

Sunday, August 8

Aug 8 - Dakar - AfNC qual play-off
Senegal 2 (Ndiaye 15, Diop 86)
Zimbabwe 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000

EUROPE

INTERTOTO CUP

1st rnd (June 20 and 27)

Aberystwyth (Wal) v Floriana (Mlt) 2-2, 1-2 (3-4 agg)
Ceahlaul Piatra Neamt (Rom) v FK Ekranas (Lit) 1-0, 1-0 (2-0 agg)
Jokerit (Fin) v Trans Narva (Est) 3-0, 4-1 (7-1 agg)
Spartak Varna (Bul) v St Truiden (Blg) 1-2, 0-6 (1-8 agg)
FCM Bacau (Rom) v Ararat Yerevan (Arm) 0-1, 0-1 (0-2 agg)
Cementarnica (Mac) v Kolkheti-1913 Poti (Geo) 4-2, 4-0 (8-2 agg)
Pobeda (Mac) v Ozeta Trencin (Slk) 3-1, 1-3 (4-4 agg, Pobeda qual)
Herfolge (Den) v MSK Zilina (Slk) 0-2, 0-2 (0-4 agg)
IA Akranes (Ice) v KS Teuta (Alb) 5-1, 1-2 (6-3 agg)
Polonia Warsaw (Pol) v Tiligul Tiraspol (Mol) 4-0, 0-0 (4-0 agg)
Lokomotiv-96 Vitebsk (Bls) v Varteks (Cro) 1-2, 2-2 (3-4 agg)
Maccabi Haifa (Isr) v Karabakh Agdam (Aze) 1-2, 1-0 (2-2 agg, Karabakh on away goals)
Hrvatski dragovoljac (Cro) v Newry Town (NI) 1-0, 0-2 (1-2 agg)
Jedinstvo (Bos) v Gl Gotu (Far) 3-0, 0-1 (3-1 agg)
Korotan (Sln) v Basle (Swi) 0-0, 0-6 (0-6 agg)
Rudar Velenje (Sln) v Halmstads (Swe) 0-0, 2-2 (2-2 agg, Velenje on away goals)
Shelbourne (Ire) v Neuchatel Xamax (Swi) 0-0, 0-2 (0-2 agg)
Hradec Kralove (Cze) v Gomel (Bls) 1-0, 0-1 (1-1 agg, Gomel qual)
US Luxembourg v Vasas (Hun) 1-3, 0-4 (1-7 agg)
Valerenga (Nor) v Ventspils (Lat) 1-0, 0-2 (1-2 agg)

2nd rnd (July 3/4 and 10/11)

Perugia (Ita) v Pobeda 1-0, 0-0 (1-0 agg)
Ararat Yerevan v St Truiden 0-2, 1-3 (1-5 agg)
Basle v Boby Brno (Cze) 0-0, 4-2 (4-2 agg)
Ceahlaul Piatra Neamt v Jedinstvo 2-1, 3-1 (5-2 agg)
Jokerit v Floriana 2-1, 1-1 (3-2 agg)
Karabakh Agdam v Montpellier (Fra) 0-3, 0-6 (0-9 agg)
FC Copenhagen (Den) v Polonia Warsaw 0-3, 1-1 (1-4 agg)
Cementarnica v Rostselmash (Rus) 1-1, 1-2 (2-3 agg)
Ventspils v Kocaelispor (Tur) 1-1, 0-2 (1-3 agg)
Hammarby (Swe) v Gomel 4-0, 2-2 (6-2 agg)
Lokeren (Blg) v IA Akranes 3-1, 3-1 (6-2 agg)
Zilina v Metz (Fra) 2-1, 0-3 (2-4 agg)
MSV Duisburg (Ger) v Newry Town 2-0, 0-1 (2-1 agg)
Neuchatel Xamax v Vasas 0-2, 0-1 (0-3 agg)
Rudar Velenje v Austria Lustenau (Aut) 1-2, 1-2 (2-4 agg)
Brann (Nor) v Varteks 3-0, 0-3 (3-3 agg, Varteks qual)

3rd rnd (July 17 and 24)

Ceahlaul Piatra Neamt v Juventus (Ita) 1-1, 0-0 (1-1 agg, Juventus on away goals)
Hamburg (Ger) v Basle 0-1, 3-2 (3-3 agg, Hamburg on away goals)
St Truiden v Austria Wien (Aut) 0-2, 2-1 (2-3 agg)
Kocaelispor v MSV Duisburg 0-3, 0-0 (0-3 agg)
Polonia Warsaw v Vasas 2-0, 2-1 (4-1 agg)
Lokeren v Metz 1-2, 1-0 (2-2 agg, Metz on away goals)
Varteks v Rostselmash 1-2, 1-0 (2-2 agg, Rostselmash on away goals)
Espanyol (Spa) v Montpellier 0-2, 1-2 (1-4 agg)
Austria Lustenau v Rennes (Fra) 2-1, 0-1 (2-2 agg, Rennes on away goals)
Heerenveen (Hol) v Hammarby 2-0, 2-0 (4-0 agg)
Trabzonspor (Tur) v Perugia 1-2, 3-0 (4-2 agg)
West Ham (Eng) v Jokerit 1-0, 1-1 (2-1 agg)

Semi-finals – 1st leg (July 28)

Metz 5 Polonia Warsaw 1; Trabzonspor 2 Hamburg 2; MSV Duisburg 1 Montpellier 1; West Ham 1 Heerenveen 0; Rennes 2 Austria Wien 0; Rostselmash 0 Juventus 4.

2nd leg (Aug 4)

Polonia Warsaw 1 Metz 1 (Metz 6-2 on agg);
Hamburg 4 Trabzonspor 1 (Hamburg 6-3 on agg);
Montpellier 3 MSV Duisburg 0 (Montpellier 4-1 on agg);
Heerenveen 0 West Ham 1 (West Ham 2-0 on agg);
Austria Wien 2 Rennes 2 (Rennes 4-2 on agg);
Juventus 5 Rostselmash 1 (Juventus 9-1 on agg).

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

1st qual rnd, 1st legs (July 14 unless stated)

IBV Vestmannayjar (Ice) 1 (Johannesson 45)
SK Tirana (Alb) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 790 (July 13)

Litex Lovech (Bul) 3 (Hadji 11, Bushi pen 35, Petrov 82)
Glentoran (NI) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 4,000

Zalgiris Vilnius (Lit) 2 (Steshko 45, Steshko 88)
Tsement Ararat (Arm) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 570

Partizan Belgrade (Yug) 6 (Ilic 12, Pekovic 25, 71, Ivic 36, 75, Kezman 54)
Flora Tallinn (Est) 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 10,000

Jeunesse d'Esch (Lux) 0
Skonto Riga (Lat) 2 (Astafjevs 66, Miholaps 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000

Sloga Jugomagnat (Mac) 1 (Memedi 66)
Kapaz Ganja (Aze) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000

HB Torshavn (Far) 1 (Magni a Lakjuni 47)
Haka Valkeakoski (Fin) 1 (Popovitch 60)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,200

Barry Town (Wal) 0
Valletta (Mlt) 0
Att: 2,400

St Patrick's Athletic (Ire) 0
Zimbru Chisinau (Mol) 5 (Berco 29, 41, Epureanu 35, 85, Boret 72)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 3,500

1st qual rnd, 2nd legs (July 21)

Tsement Ararat 0
Zalgiris Vilnius 3 (Novikov 7, Jokshas 32, Vasilauskas 65)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 1,500
Zalgiris 5-0 on agg

Kapaz Ganja 2 (Mamedov 19, Rzayev 90pen)
Sloga Jugomagnat 1 (Arif 34)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,000
Agg 2-2. Sloga on away goals

Zimbru Chisinau 5 (Tropanets 25, 40, Borets 31, 75, Oprea pen 83)
St Patrick's Athletic 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 10,000
Zimbru 10-0 on agg

Skonto Riga 8 (Bleidelis 37, 50, Miholaps 39, 55, 63, pen 85, pen 90, Koleschenko 77)
Jeunesse d'Esch 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 500
Skonto 10-0 on agg

SK Tirana 1 (Bulku 82)
IBV Vestmannaevjar 2 (Johanesson 33, Sigurdson 48)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,000
IBV 3-1 on agg

Flora Tallinn 1 (Viikmae 52)
Partizan Belgrade 4 (Kezman 10, 69, Ilic 20, Tomic 82)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 225
Partizan 10-1 on agg

Haka Valkeakoski 6 (Salli 26, Reynders 44, Nyyssonen 46, Wilson 63, Popovitch 80, Torkkeli 90)
HB Torshavn 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,200
Haka 7-1 on agg

Valletta 3 (Agius 42, 46, Chetcuti 64)
Barry Town 2 (Stown 49, 65)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,000
Valletta 3-2 on agg

Glentoran 0
Litex Lovech 2 (Haxai 63, Bushi 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000
Litex 5-0 on agg

2nd qual rnd, 1st legs (July 28)

Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyp) 2 (Obicu 28, pen 88)
Slovan Bratislava (Slk) 1 (Hrncar 53)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000

Besiktas (Tur) 1
Hapoel Haifa (Isr) 1

CSKA Moscow (Rus) 2 (Siskin 7, Khomukha 86)
Molde (Nor) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000

Dnepr-Transmash Mogilev (Bls) 0
AIK Stockholm (Swe) 1 (Tjernstrom 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000

Haka Valkeakoski 1 (Niemi 52)
Rangers (Sco) 4 (Amoruso 18, Mols 27, 42, Johansson 86)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 3,341

IBV Vestmannaeyjar (Ice) 0
MTK Budapest (Hun) 2
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,000

Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr) 2 (Shatskikh 37, 78)
Zalgiris Vilnius (Lit) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,500

Litex Lovech 4 (Todorov 39, 80, Zhivkovic pen 82, Dodrov 90)
Widzew Lodz (Pol) 1 (Wichniarek pen 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,500

Maribor Teatanic (Sln) 5 (Balajic 25, Galic 62, Karic pen 69, Simundza 77, Djuranovic 90)
Genk (Blg) 1 (Strupar 34)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,000

Partizan Belgrade 3 (Ilic 10, Krstajic 22, 85)
Rijeka (Cro) 1 (Stipanovics 56)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 32,000

Rapid Bucharest (Rom) 3 (Barbu 14, Schumacher 52, Mutica 73)
Skonto Riga 3 (Tchaladze 5, 32, Astafievs 65)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 6,000

Rapid Wien (Aut) 3 (Dowe 54, Savicevic 74, Penska 86)
Valletta 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,000

Sloga Jugomagnat (Mac) 0
Brondby (Den) 1 (Daugaard 15)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,000

Tbilisi Dynamo (Geo) 2 (Tsitaishvili 82, Khomeriki 88)
Zimbru Chisinau 1 (Berko 68)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000

2nd qual rnd, 2nd legs (Aug 4)

Zimbru Chisinau 2 (Dodul 23, Epureanu 90)
Tbilisi Dinamo 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000
Zimbru 3-2 on agg

Vilnius Zalgiris 0
Kyiv Dynamo 1 (Rebrov 35)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,000
Dynamo 3-0 on agg

Molde 4 (Tessem 47, Berg Hestad 65, Hoseth 67, 81)
CSKA Moscow 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,203
Sent off: Holli (CSKA) 55min.
Molde 4-2 on agg

Slovan Bratislava 1 (Timko 60)
Anorthosis Famagusta 1 (Obiku 58)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,770
Famagusta 3-2 on agg

Valletta 0
Rapid Wien 2 (Dowe 71, Lagonikakis 88)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,500
Sent off: E Azzopardi (Valletta) 48min.
Rapid 5-0 on agg

AIK Stockholm 2 (Cornilieussen 55, Gustafsson 85)
Dnepr Transmash-Mogilev 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,513
AIK 3-0 on agg

Hapoel Haifa 0
Besiktas 0
Att: 12,000
Agg 1-1. Hapoel on away goals

Skonto Riga 2 (Laizans 77, Rubins 87)
Rapid Bucharest 1 (Raducanu 33)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,900
Sent off: Raducanu (Rapid) 81min.
Skonto 5-4 on agg

Rijeka 0
Partizan Belgrade 3 (Kezman 7, 83, Ivic 19)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 20,000
Partizan 6-1 on agg

Genk 3 (Gudjonsson 45, 58, Horvath 62)
Maribor Teatanic 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000 (in Liege)
Sent off: Karic (Maribor) 67min; Olivieri (Genk) 90min.
Maribor 5-4 on agg

Rangers 3 (Wallace 15, Johansson 28, Amato 66)
Haka Valkeakoski 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 46,443
Rangers 7-1 on agg

Brondby 1 (Daugard pen 4)
Slogo Jugomagnat 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000
Brondby 2-0 on agg

MTK 3 (Ilea 4, Kuttor 25, Illes 41)
IBV 1 (Moller 90)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 2,500
MTK 5-1 on agg

Widzew Lodz 4 (Gesior 14, Wichniarek 52, 60, Michalski 75)
Litex Lovech 1 (Todorov 30)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,800
Aet. Agg 5-5. Widzew 3-2 on pens

3rd qual rnd, 1st legs (Aug 11 unless stated)

AaB Aalborg (Den) 1 (Strandli 55)
Kyiv Dynamo 2 (Rebrov 13, Shatskikh 39)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 8,462

AEK Athens (Gre) 0
AIK Stockholm 0
Att: 25,000

Brondby 1 (Smith 65)
Boavista (Por) 2 (Mario Silva 25, Moreira 73)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 9,060
Sent off: Vragel da Silva (Boavista) 13min.

Chelsea (Eng) 3 (Babayaro 76, Poyet 77, Sutton 84)
Skonto Riga 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,043
Sent off: Tereskinas (Skonto) 33min.

Croatia Zagreb 0
MTK Budapest 0
Att: 34,000
Sent off: Edin Mujcin (Croatia) 17min; Gabor Almai (MTK) 67min.

Fiorentina (Ita) 3 (Adani 17, Cois 57, Rui Costa 90)
Widzew Lodz 1 (Aidani og 73)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000

Hapoel Haifa 0
Valencia (Spa) 2 (Lopez 68, Farinos 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 14,500

Hertha Berlin (Ger) 2 (Ali Daei 2, Preetz 58)
Anorthosis Famagusta 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000

Lyon (Fra) 0
Maribor Teatanic 1 (Filipovic 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000 (Aug 10)

Molde 0
Mallorca (Spa) 0
Att: 8,573

Moscow Spartak (Rus) 2 (Shirko 39, Tikhonov 73)
Partizan Belgrade 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000

Rangers 2 (Vidmar 33, Reyna 76)
Parma (Ita) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 49,263

Rapid Wien 0
Galatasaray (Tur) 3 (Hakan 34, Fatih 38, Hagi 90)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 30,200

Sturm Graz (Aut) 2 (Vastic 35, Martens 45)
Servette (Swi) 1 (Lonfat 45)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 12,000

Teplice (Cze) 0
Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 1 (Nerlinger 66)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000

Zimbru Chisinau 0
PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 0
Att: 10,000

UEFA CUP

Qual rnd, 1st legs (Aug 12 unless stated)

Ankaragucu (Tur) 1 B36 Torshavn (Far) 0;
Anderlecht (Blg) 6 Leiftur (Ice) 1;
APOEL Nicosia (Cyp) 0 Levski Sofia (Bul) 0;
BATE Borisov (Bls) 1 Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) 7;
Belshina Bobruisk (Bls) 1 Omonia Nicosia (Cyp) 5;
Bodo/Glimt (Nor) 1 Vaduz (Lie) 0;
Cwmbran Town (Wal) 0 Celtic (Sco) 6;
Ferencvaros (Hun) 3 Constructorul Chisinau (Mol) 1;
FK Riga (Lat) 0 Helsingborgs (Swe) 0;
Grasshopper (Swi) 4 Bray Wanderers (Ire) 0;
Inter Bratislava (Slk) 3 Bylis Ballsh (Alb) 1;
Hajduk Split (Cro) 5 F91 Dudelange (Lux) 0;
HIT Gorica (Sln) 2 ICT Cardiff (Wal) 0;
IFK Gothenburg (Swe) 3 Cork City (Ire) 0;
Kl Klaksvik (Far) 0 Grazer AK (Aut) 5;
KR Reykjavik (Ice) 1 Kilmarnock (Sco) 0;
Kryvbas Kryviy Rih (Ukr) 3 Shamkir (Aze) 0;
Lantana Tallinn (Est) 0 Torpedo Kutaisi (Geo) 5;
Lokomotiv Tbilisi (Geo) 1 Linfield (Nl) 0;
Lyngby (Den) 7 Birkirkara (Mlt) 0;
Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 3 Kaunas (Lit) 1;
Metalurgs Liepaja (Lat) 3 Lech Poznan (Pol) 2;
Mondercange (Lux) 2 Dinamo Bucharest (Rom) 6;
Neftchi Baku (Aze) 2 Red Star (Yug) 3;
Olimpija Ljubljana (Sln) 1 Kareda Siauliai (Lit) 1;
Portadown (Nl) 0 CSKA Sofia (Bul) 3;
Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 3 Sileks Kratovo (Mac) 1 (Aug 10);
Sherif Tiraspol (Mol) 1 Sigma Olomouc (Cze) 1;
Sliema Wanderers (Mlt) 0 Zurich (Swi) 3;
Steaua (Rom) 3 Levadia Maardu (Est) 0;
Tulevik Viljandi (Est) 0 Club Brugge (Blg) 3;
Vardar Skopje (Mac) 0 Legia (Pol) 5 ;
Viking Stavanger (Nor) 7 Principat (And) 0;
Vilaznia Shkoder (Alb) 1 Spartak Trnava (Slk) 1;
VPS Vaasa (Fin) 1 St Johnstone (Sco) 1;
Vojvodina Novi Sad (Yug) 4 Ujpest (Hun) 0;
Yerevan (Arm) 0 Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 2.

AUSTRIA

June 29: FC Tirol 2 Rapid 1.
June 30: Salzburg 1 Lustenau 0; Bregenz 1 SV Ried 2; Linz ASK 0 Sturm Graz 2; Grazer AK 0 Austria Wien 2.
July 6: Austria Wien 2 Salzburg 0.
July 7: Lustenau 1 Linz ASK 1; SV Ried 0 Grazer AK 1; Rapid 2 Bregenz 0; Sturm Graz 0 FC Tirol 1.
July 13: Rapid 1 Salzburg 0.
July 14: Linz ASK 1 Austria Wien 1; Bregenz 1 Sturm Graz 4; FC Tirol 1 SV Ried 0; Grazer AK 2 Lustenau 3.
July 17: Salzburg 2 Linz ASK 1; Rapid Wien 0 Sturm Graz 0.
July 21: Sturm Graz 5 Grazer AK 0; Austria Wien 0 FC Tirol 2; Lustenau 3 Bregenz 0; SV Ried 1 Rapid Wien 2.
July 27: FC Tirol 5 Linz ASK 0; Grazer AK 0 Salzburg 0; SV Ried 1 Lustenau 1.
July 31: Austria Wien 0 Rapid Wien 3.
Aug 3: Salzburg 0 Bregenz 1; Lustenau 1 FC Tirol 3; Sturm Graz 2 SV Ried 1; Linz ASK 1 Grazer AK 3.
Aug 6: FC Tirol 1 Grazer AK 0.
Aug 7: Bregenz 2 Linz ASK 1; Rapid Wien 2 Lustenau 0; SV Ried 3 Salzburg 0; Sturm Graz 2 Austria Wien 2.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Tirol	7	7	0	0	15	2	21
Rapid Wien	7	5	1	1	11	3	16
Sturm Graz	7	4	2	1	15	5	14
Lustenau	7	2	2	3	9	10	8
Austria Wien	6	2	2	2	7	8	8
SV Ried	7	2	1	4	8	8	7
Salzburg	7	2	1	4	3	8	7
Grazer AK	7	2	1	4	6	12	7
Bregenz	6	2	0	4	5	12	6
Linz ASK	7	0	2	5	5	16	2

BELGIUM

Saturday, August 7

Geel 1 (Delen 73)
Gent 5 (Kharif 28, Vasov 47, 49, Arst 61, Gasjer 72) Att: 7,000

Beveren 0
Eendracht Aalst 2 (D Cooreman 20, S Cooreman 55) Att: 3,800

Charleroi 2 (D Brogno 61, Gerard 87)
Harelbeke 1 (Diatel 75) Att: 10,500

Lierse 3 (Cavens 38, Somers 55, Zdebel 90)
Germinal BA 1 (Van Der Heyden 68) Att: 11,000

Lommel 1 (Waligora 80)
Lokeren 0 Att: 4,000

Standard 2 (M Mpenza 57, E Mpenza 66)
Mechelen 1 (Van Hout 13) Att: 14,000

Westerlo 6 (T Brogno pen 19, 56, pen 83, 90, Pelic 27, 49)
Genk 6 (Strupar pen 8, pen 24, pen 66, Oulare 72, N'Sumbu 80, T Gudjonsson 86) Att: 10,000

Anderlecht 3 (Scifo 49, Zetterberg pen 61, Van Diemen 66)
Mouscron 2 (Vandooren 43, Ma. Zewlakow 90)
Att: 25,794

Club Brugge 4 (Verheyen 19, Martens 54, Lesnjak 86, Vermant 90)
St Truiden 0 Att: 16,000

BULGARIA

Aug 7: Lev Sofia 2 Chernomorets 0; Neftohimik 2 CSKA 1; Olympic-Beroe 5 Botev 2; Belasitsa 1 Dobrudzha 0; Velbazhd 3 Minjor 0; Lovech 0 Slavia 1; Lok Sofia 5 Pirin 1.

CROATIA

July 24: Croatia 2 Cibalia 0; Istra 0 Slaven 2; Vukovar '91 3 Zagreb 4; Rijeka 0 Osijek 1; Sibenik 0 Hrvatski drag 0.
July 28: Varteks 3 Hajduk 2.
July 31: Cibalia 0 Zagreb 0; Slaven 1 Vukovar '91 2; Osijek 1 Istra 0; Croatia 4 Varteks 1.

CZECH REP

July 31-Aug 1: Sparta 2 Zizkov 1; Jablonec 0 Dukla 2; Teplice 1 Opava 1; Ceske Budejovice 2 Drnovice 0; Brno 1 Olomouc 0; Bohemians 0 Slavia 1; Ostrava 6 Chmel Blsany 1; Kralove 1 Liberec 3.
Aug 6: Jablonec 3 Teplice 1.
Aug 7: Opava 1 Sparta 1.
Aug 8: Zizkov 1 Ceske Budejovice 1; Olomouc 0 Bohemians 0; Slavia 2 Ostrava 0; Dukla 1 Liberec 1; Chmel Blsany 1 Kralove 0.
Aug 9: Drnovice 2 Brno 0.

DENMARK

July 24: Brondby 1 Lyngby 0.
July 25: Vejle 0 Silkeborg 4; AB 1 AGF 0; Herfolge 3 AaB 1; Viborg 2 FC Copenhagen 1.
July 26: Esbjerg 2 OB 0.
Aug 1: Vejle 0 Brondby 4; AGF 1 Herfolge1; Lyngby 5 Esbjerg 1; Silkeborg 0 FC Copenhagen 0; OB 0 AB 3.
Aug 2: AaB 2 Viborg 0.
Aug 6: FC Copenhagen 0 AaB 2.
Aug 8: Brondby 1 Silkeborg 0; AB 3 Lyngby 0; Herfolge 1 OB 0; Viborg 1 AGF 1.
Aug 9: Esbjerg 1 Vejle 1.
Aug 15: Vejle 0 AB 0; Brondby 3 Esbjerg 1; OB 1 Viborg 1; Lyngby 1 Herfolge 2; AaB 2 Silkeborg 1.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brondby	4	4	0	0	9	1	12
AB	4	3	1	0	7	0	10
Herfolge	4	3	1	0	7	3	10
AaB	4	3	0	1	7	4	9
Viborg	4	1	2	1	4	5	5
Silkeborg	4	1	1	2	5	3	4
Esbjerg	4	1	1	2	5	9	4
Lyngby	4	1	0	3	6	7	3
AGF	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Vejle	4	0	2	2	1	9	2
FC Copenhagen	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
OB	4	0	1	3	1	7	1

ENGLAND

Saturday, August 7

Arsenal 2 (Bergkamp 65, Sinclair og 90)
Leicester 1 (Cottee 57) Att: 38,026

Chelsea 4 (Poyet 20, 78, Zola 32, Flo 77)
Sunderland 0 Att: 34,831

Coventry 0
Southampton 1 (Ostenstad 85) Att: 19,915

Leeds 0
Derby 0 Att: 40,118

Middlesbrough 0
Bradford 1 (Saunders 89) Att: 33,762

Newcastle 0
Aston Villa 1 (Joachim 75) Att: 36,600

Sheffield Wed 1 (Carbone 88)
Liverpool 2 (Fowler 75, Camara 84) Att: 34,853

Watford 2 (Kennedy pen 17, Ngonge 71)
Wimbledon 3 (Cort 10, Gayle 28, Johnson og 78) Att: 15,511

West Ham 1 (Lampard 45)
Tottenham 0 Att: 26,010

Sunday, August 8

Everton 1 (Stam og 86)
Man Utd 1 (Yorke 7) Att: 39,141

CHARITY SHIELD

Sunday, August 1

Man Utd 1 (Beckham 36)
Arsenal 2 (Kanu pen 67, Parlour 77) Att: 70,185

FRANCE

Friday, July 30

Bordeaux 3 (Alicarte 34, Laslandes 81, Micoud 85)
Bastia 2 (Nee 57, Petersen pen 69) Att: 32,000

Monaco 2 (Simone 11, Trezeguet 29)
Saint-Etienne 2 (Pedron 18, Aloisio 52) Att: 16,000

Saturday, July 31

Auxerre 2 (Guivarc'h 35, Comisetti 64)
Nancy 1 (Wiart 66) Att: 15,000

Lyon 1 (Vairelles 79)
Montpellier 2 (Loko 25, Barbosa 73) Att: 35,000

Marseille 3 (Bakayoko 26, Dugarry 33, Belmadi 90)
Sedan 0 Att: 55,000

Metz 0 Rennes 0 Att: 14,000

Nantes 1 (Sibierski 90)
Le Havre 0 Att: 25,000

Paris SG 1 (Robert 60)
Troyes 0 Att: 34,000

Strasbourg 1 (Hemdani 46)
Lens 0 Att: 30,000

Thursday, August 5

Le Havre 0 Marseille 0 Att: 16,384

Troyes 1 (Jezierski 82)
Lyon 2 (Vairelles 15, 52) Att: 13,043

Friday, August 6

Bastia 3 (Casanova 33, Petersen 67, Nee 82)
Strasbourg 0 Att: 8,500

Lens 1 (Moreira 40)
Monaco 0 Att: 41,000

Saint-Etienne 0
Nantes 2 (Monterrubio 36, Sibierski 90) Att: 28,000

Sedan 3 (Deblock 5, Mionnet 13, Quint 71)
Nancy 1 (Cascarino 77) Att: 10,000

Saturday, August 7

Metz 3 (Meyrieu pen 22, Bastien 34, Saha 84)
Auxerre 0 Att: 12,000

Montpellier 2 (Dzodic 19, Loko 24)
Bordeaux 2 (Micoud 39, Wiltord 61) Att: 20,000

Rennes 1 (Diatta 31)
Paris SG 3 (L Robert 13, 88, Madar pen 51) Att: 10,000

HUNGARY

Aug 7: DVSC 2 Dunaferr 1; Tatabanya 1 Vac 1; Diosgyor 2 Nyiregyhaza 2; Szeged 1 Gyor 1; Siofok 0 Gazszer 1; Kispest Honved 2 Haladas 0; Ferencvaros 1 Vasas 2.
Aug 8: Nagykanizsa 0 Zalaegerszeg 0.

NORWAY

July 25: Bodo/Glimt 3 Molde 1; Kongsvinger 0 Brann 2; Lillestrom 4 Viking 1; Moss 2 Stabaek 0; Skeid 3 Odd Grenland 1; Tromso 2 Rosenborg 1; Valerenga 2 Stromsgodset 3.
Aug 1: Rosenborg 4 Kongsvinger 1; Brann 0 Bodo/Glimt 2; Molde 4 Valerenga 3; Stabaek 1 Lillestrom 6; Viking 2 Tromso 1; Stromsgodset 3 Skeid 1; Odd Grenland 1 Moss 0.
Aug 8: Bodo/Glimt 2 Rosenborg 4; Kongsvinger 1 Viking 3; Lillestrom 1 Odd Grenland 2; Moss 5 Skeid 0; Stromsgodset 0 Molde 2; Tromso 3 Stabaek 3; Valerenga 1 Brann 2

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	18	13	2	3	52	17	41
Molde	18	12	2	4	33	21	38
Lillestrom	18	11	2	5	45	29	35
Brann	17	11	0	6	29	26	33
Stabaek	18	9	3	6	39	34	30
Tromso	17	8	3	6	42	30	27
Viking	18	8	2	8	31	27	26
Odd Grenland	18	8	2	8	25	35	26
Bodo/Glimt	18	7	3	8	33	37	24
Moss	18	6	1	11	28	34	19
Stromsgodset	18	6	1	11	28	40	19
Skeid	18	5	2	11	21	44	17
Valerenga	18	4	3	11	25	38	15
Kongsvinger	18	4	0	14	26	45	12

POLAND

July 16: Legia 0 LKS 0.
July 17: Amica 3 Gornik 2; R Radzionkow 0 Halex 1; Groclin 1 Pogon 2; Zaglebie 2 Lech 1; Petro Plock 0 R Chorzow 0.
July 18: Odra 0 Wisla 3.
July 21: Widzew 1 Polonia 1.
July 24: Gornik 2 Legia 2; Halex 5 Groclin 2; R Chorzow 4 Widzew 1; LKS 1 Odra 0; Zaglebie 2 Amica 2; Lech 1 Pogon 1.
July 25: Wisla 3 Petro Plock 1.
July 31: Widzew 3 Wisla 4; Amica 1 Lech 0; Legia 2 Zaglebie 2; Odra 3 Gornik 3; Petro Plock 2 LKS 0; R Radzionkow 1 R Chorzow 2; Groclin 0 Polonia 1; Pogon 3 Halex 0.
Aug 6: Wisla 2 R Radzionkow 0; Amica 1 Legia 2.
Aug 7: Lech 1 Halex 2; Polonia 4 Pogon 0; R Chorzow 4 Groclin 1; Gornik 4 Petro Plock 1; Zaglebie 1 Odra 0.

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wisla	4	4	0	0	12	4	12
R Chorzow	4	3	1	0	10	3	10
Halex	4	3	0	1	8	6	9
Zaglebie	4	2	2	0	7	5	8
Polonia	3	2	1	0	6	1	7
Amica	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Pogon	4	2	1	1	6	6	7
Legia	4	1	3	0	6	5	6
Gornik	4	1	2	1	11	9	5
LKS	3	1	1	1	1	2	4
Petro Plock	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
Lech	4	0	1	3	3	6	1
Widzew	3	0	1	2	5	9	1
Odra	4	0	1	3	3	8	1
R Radzionkow	3	0	0	3	1	5	0
Groclin	4	0	0	4	4	12	0

PORTUGAL

SUPER CUP – 1ST LEG

Saturday, August 7

Beira Mar 1 (Fary 67)
FC Porto 2 (Domingos 68, Esquerdinha 73) Att: 5,000

ROMANIA

July 24: Farul 0 Dinamo 2; Onesti 2 Resita 1; Gloria 2 Otelul 3; Brasov 1 Bacau 1; Rapid 1 Astra 1; National 1 U Craiova 0; Extensiv 2 Arges 1; Petrolul 5 Steaua 1.
July 30: Ceahlaul 2 Brasov 1.
July 31: Resita 1 Farul 1; Dinamo 5 Gloria 0; Bacau 0 Rapid 0; Otelul 8 Extensiv 2; Steaua 2 Rocar 1; U Craiova 1 Onesti 0.
Aug 1: Arges 1 Petrolul 0.
Aug 3: National 2 Bacau 2.
Aug 4: Resita 0 Dinamo 6; Extensiv 1 Gloria 2; Farul 2 Craiova 0; Brasov 1 Steaua 2; Onesti 1 Astra 0; Petrolul 2 Otelul 1; Rocar 0 Arges 3.
Aug 7: Astra 3 Farul 2; Ceahlaul 3 National 2; Arges 1 Brasov 0; Bacau 3 Onesti 0; Gloria 4 Petrolul 0; Otelul 2 Rocar 1; Craiova 2 Resita 2; Steaua 1 Rapid 3.
Aug 8: Dinamo 3 Extensiv 0.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	4	4	0	0	16	0	12
Otelul	4	3	0	1	14	7	9
Arges	4	3	0	1	6	2	9
Bacau	4	1	3	0	6	3	6
Ceahlaul	2	2	0	0	5	3	6
Petrolul	4	2	0	2	7	7	6
Gloria	4	2	0	2	8	9	6
Onesti	4	2	0	2	3	5	6
Steaua	4	2	0	2	6	10	6
Rapid	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
National	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Astra	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Farul	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
U Craiova	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Extensiv	4	1	0	3	5	14	3
Resita	4	0	2	2	4	11	2
Brasov	4	0	1	3	3	6	1
Rocar	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

RUSSIA

July 18: CSKA 5 Shinnik 0.
July 21: Chernomorets 1 Zenit 0; Shinnik 1 Spartak 2; Uralan 1 CSKA 1; Alaniya 3 Rotor 0; Kryliya Sovetov 0 Rostselmash 0; Dinamo 1 Torpedo 1; Lokomotiv M 3 Lokomotiv NN 1; Zhemchuzhina 2 Saturn 0.
July 28: Spartak 4 Zenit 1; Saturn 1 Lokomotiv M 1; Lokomotiv NN 1 Dinamo 3; Torpedo 3 Krylya Sovetov 1; Rotor 3 Uralan 1; Zhemchuzhina 2 Chernomorets 0.
Aug 4: Chernomorets 1 Spartak 1; Shinnik 2 Rotor 0; Alaniya 6 Torpedo 1; Krylya Sovetov 3 Lokomotiv NN 0; Dinamo 0 Saturn 0; Lokomotiv M 1 Zhemchuzhina 1.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak	23	16	5	2	50	18	53
Lokomotiv M	19	12	4	3	42	20	40
CSKA	19	10	7	2	36	14	37
Torpedo	20	8	9	3	25	23	33
Dinamo	19	9	5	5	33	26	32
Alaniya	18	9	4	5	40	24	31
Rostselmash	17	7	5	5	20	19	26
Zenit	19	6	7	6	24	23	25
Lokomotiv NN	19	6	4	9	22	30	22
Rotor	20	6	3	11	25	38	21
Kryliya Sovetov	20	5	4	11	26	34	19
Saturn	20	4	6	10	18	30	18
Chernomorets	19	4	5	10	17	32	17
Uralan	18	4	4	10	12	24	16
Shinnik	19	3	6	10	13	30	15
Zhemchuzhina	19	2	8	9	14	32	14

SCOTLAND

Saturday, July 31

Dundee Utd 2 (Skoldmark 14, Ferraz 85)
Dundee 1 (Falconer 52) Att: 11,693

Hibernian 2 (Lehmann 45, 81)
Motherwell 2 (Nevin 65, Nicholas 90) Att: 13,058

Rangers 2 (Wallace 39, Reyna 68)
Kilmarnock 1 (Mitchell 65) Att: 48,074

St Johnstone 1 (McQuillan 83)
Hearts 4 (McSwegan 30, Flogel 67, Dodds og 78, Cameron 80) Att: 6,705

Sunday, August 1

Aberdeen 0
Celtic 5 (Larsson 4, pen 52, Viduka 35, 41, Burchill 90) Att: 16,000

Saturday, August 7

Celtic 3 (Mjallby 6, Viduka 28, Wieghorst 50)
St Johnstone 0 Att: 60,253

Hearts 0
Rangers 4 (Reyna 14, 73, Mols 45, Albertz 67) Att: 17,893

Kilmarnock 2 (Hay 38, 62)
Aberdeen 0 Att: 8,378

Motherwell 2 (McCulloch 17, 36)
Dundee Utd 2 (Dodds 69, Ferraz 80) Att: 6,791

Sunday, August 8

Dundee 3 (Lovering og 56, McSkimming 57, Annand pen 73)
Hibernian 4 (Lehmann 32, Sauzee 60, 84, Miller 89) Att: 6,050

SPAIN

SUPER CUP – 1ST LEG

Sunday, August 8

Valencia 1 (Claudio Lopez 86)
Barcelona 0 Att: 45,000

SWEDEN

July 19: AIK 2 Norrkoping 0; Vastra Frolunda 4 Elfsborg 4.
July 28: Orebro 1 IFK Gothenburg 2.
July 31: Elfsborg 0 AIK 3.
Aug 1: Norrkoping 4 Kalmar 2; Trelleborgs 1 Vastra Frolunda 0.
Aug 2: Hammarby 2 Orebro 1; Helsingborgs 2 Orgryte 0; IFK Gothenburg 1 Malmo 0.
Aug 3: Djurgardens 0 Halmstads 2.
Aug 7: AIK 3 Trelleborgs 0; Vastra Frolunda 0 Helsingborgs 0.
Aug 8: Halmstads 4 IFK Gothenburg 0; Orebro 2 Kalmar 0.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIK	16	10	3	3	28	10	33
Helsingborgs	16	10	2	4	26	15	32
Halmstads	16	9	3	4	32	13	30
Orgryte	15	8	5	2	28	11	29
Orebro	16	8	1	7	18	19	25
Kalmar	16	7	2	7	23	26	23
Trelleborgs	16	6	4	6	25	24	22
Vastra Frolunda	16	5	5	6	19	23	20
IFK Gothenburg	16	5	5	6	15	23	20
Malmo	15	4	3	8	17	26	15
Hammarby	15	3	5	7	17	26	14
Norrkoping	15	3	5	7	15	24	14
Elfsborg	15	3	4	8	23	33	13
Djurgardens	15	3	3	9	15	28	12

SWITZERLAND

July 7: Delemont 1 Servette 3; Grasshopper 1 Lausanne 1; Yverdon 1 Zurich 1; Lugano 1 Basle 1; St Gallen 2-0 Lucerne 0; Neuchatel Xamax 1 Aarau 1.
July 10: Lucerne 2 Delemont 0; Lausanne 0 St Gallen 1; Servette 1-3 Lugano 3.
July 11: Zurich 0 Grasshopper 0.
July 13: Aarau 1 Yverdon 1.
July 14: Basle 1 Neuchatel Xamax 1.
July 17: Delemont 1 Lausanne 1; Grasshopper 4 Aarau 0; Neuchatel Xamax 3 Lugano 1; Servette 1 Lucerne 0.
July 18: St Gallen 3 Zurich 0.
July 21: Aarau 1 St Gallen 0; Basle 1 Grasshopper 1; Lausanne 0 Servette 1; Lugano 1 Lucerne 1; Neuchatel Xamax 1 Yverdon 1; Zurich 3 Delemont 1.
July 24: Delemont 4 Aarau 2; Yverdon 1 Lugano 0; Grasshopper 4 Neuchatel Xamax 0; Servette 3 Zurich 0.
July 25: Lucerne 2 Lausanne 1.
July 31: Yverdon 2 Grasshopper 0; Basle 3 Delemont 0; Lugano 1 Lausanne 1; Neuchatel Xamax 2 St Gallen 2; Zurich 1 Lucerne 1.
Aug 1: Aarau 3 Servette 2.
Aug 5: Servette 1 Basle 1.
Aug 7: Delemont 2 Neuchatel Xamax 2; Lausanne 2 Zurich 0; Lucerne 2 Aarau 1; St Gallen 3 Yverdon 2.
Aug 8: Grasshopper 2 Lugano 1.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Gallen	6	4	1	1	11	5	13
Servette	7	4	1	2	12	8	13
Grasshopper	7	3	3	1	12	5	12
Lucerne	7	3	2	2	8	7	11
Yverdon	6	2	3	1	8	6	9
Neuchatel Xamax	7	1	5	1	10	12	8
Aarau	7	2	2	3	9	14	8
Basle	5	1	4	0	7	4	7
Lausanne	7	1	3	3	6	7	6
Lugano	7	1	3	3	8	10	6
Zurich	7	1	3	3	5	11	6
Delemont	7	1	2	4	9	16	5

TURKEY

Aug 6: Galatasaray 1 Gaziantepspor 2.
Aug 7: Genclerbirligi 1 Besiktas 0; Samsunspor 2 Ankaragucu 0.
Aug 8: Bursaspor 1 Altay 4; Antalyaspor 1 Istanbulspor 0; Fenerbahce 3 Vanspor 2; Adanaspor 1 Trabzonspor 2; Erzurum 0 Denizlispor 1; Goztepe 0 Kocaelispor 0.

UKRAINE

July 12: Kryvbas 1 Dynamo 1; Shakhtar 1 Zirka 0; Vorskla 4 Dnipro 0; Metalurh Z 3 Tavriya 2; Metalurh M 5 Chernomorets 0; Prykarpattya 1 Metalurh D 1; Niva 1 Karpaty 2; CSKA 0 Metalist 1.
July 16: Dynamo 2 Metalist 1; Tavriya 0 Shakhtar 3; Zirka 1 Prykarpattya 1; Karpaty 1 CSKA 0; Kryvbas 4 Vorskla 0; Dnipro 0 Metalurh Z 2; Metalurh D 2 Metalurh M 1; Chornomorets 1 Nyva 0.
July 20: Vorskla 1 Dynamo 2; Metalist 1 Karpaty 0; Shakhtar 2 Dnipro 0; Prykarpattya 0 Tavriya 2; Metalurh M 3 Zirka 0; CSKA 3 Chornomorets 0; Metalurh Z 1 Kryvbas 2; Nyva 3 Metalurh D 0.
July 24-25: Dynamo 3 Karpaty 0; Kryvbas 1 Shakhtar 0; Chornomorets 0 Metalist 1; Dnipro 1 Prykarpattya 1; Tavriya 1 Metalurh M 0; Zirka 1 Nyva 1; Metalurh D 0 CSKA 0; Vorskla 3 Metalurh Z 0.
Aug 1: Shakhtar 0 Vorskla 0; Karpaty 5 Chornomorets 0; Prykarpattya 1 Kryvbas 3; Metalist 2 Metalurh D 1; Metalurh M 3 Dnipro 2; Nyva 1 Tavriya 1; CSKA 3 Zirka 0.
Aug 8: Dynamo 4 Chornomorets 1; Metalurh Z 1 Shakhtar 0; Vorskla 2 Prykarpattya 0; Metalurh D 2 Karpaty 1; Kryvbas 2 Metalurh M 1; Zirka 2 Metalist 2; Dnipro 1 Nyva 1; Tavriya 1 CSKA 2.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kryvbas	6	5	1	0	13	4	16
Dynamo	5	4	1	0	12	4	13
Metalist	6	4	1	1	8	5	13
CSKA	6	3	1	2	8	3	10
Vorskla	6	3	1	2	10	6	10
Shakhtar	6	3	1	2	6	2	10
Metalurh M	6	3	0	3	13	7	9
Karpaty	6	3	0	3	9	7	9
Metalurh Z	5	3	0	2	7	7	9
Metalurh D	6	2	2	2	6	8	8
Tavriya	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
Nyva	6	1	3	2	7	6	6
Prykarpattya	6	0	3	3	4	10	3
Zirka	6	0	3	3	4	11	3
Chornomorets	6	1	0	5	2	18	3
Dnipro	6	0	2	4	4	13	2

YUGOSLAVIA

July 31: Obilic 1 Rad 0; Vojvodina 2 Radnicki K 0; Cukaricki 2 Sutjeska 2; Proleter 3 Spartak 0; Hajduk K 2 OFK 0; Mogren 1 Buducnost 1; Sartid 1 Zemun 2; Milicionar 0 Zeleznik 2; Borac 2 Red Star 2.
Aug 1: Hajduk B 4 Radnicki N 1.
Aug 7: Zeleznik 5 Borac 3; Zemun 2 Milicionar 2; Rad 3 Mogren 1; OFK 4 Obilic 2; Partizan 2 Cukaricki 1; Radnicki K 2 Hajduk K 0; Spartak 1 Vojvodina 0; Sutjeska 4 Hajduk B 3; Buducnost 1 Sartid 1; Radnicki N 1 Proleter 3.

SOUTH AMERICA

MERCOSUR CUP

Group A
July 27 - Buenos Aires
River Plate (Arg) 3 (Cardetti 10, 50, Rivarola og 42)
Palmeiras (Bra) 3 (Ze Maria 7, Evair 36, Jackson 80)
HT: 2-2. **Ref:** Larrionda (Uru)

Group B
July 28 - Buenos Aires
Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 1 (Camps pen 18)
Gremio (Bra) 1 (Agnaldo 35)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Mendez (Uru)

July 28 - Sao Paulo
Corinthians (Bra) 1 (Luizao 30)
Independiente (Arg) 2 (Cambiasso 52, Guadalupe 78)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Troxler (Par)

Group C
July 29 - Santiago
Universidad Catolica (Chl) 1 (Brizuela 10)
San Lorenzo (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Oliveira (Bra)

July 31 - Buenos Aires
Boca Juniors (Arg) 5 (Barros Schelotto 3, 12, pen 30, Ibarra 21, Barijho 89)
Sao Paulo (Bra) 1 (Rai 29)
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Gonzalez (Par)

Group D
July 28 - Montevideo
Nacional (Uru) 3 (Varela 4, Nuenex 14, Sosa 90)
Cerro Porteno (Par) 1 (Fernandez 38)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Simon (Bra)

July 29 - Montevideo
Penarol (Uru) 2 (De Souza 29, Romero 31)
Vasco da Gama (Bra) 1 (Juninho 25)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Madorran (Arg)

Group E
July 27 - Rio de Janeiro
Flamengo (Bra) 2 (Romario 12, 44)
Olimpia (Par) 1 (Avalos pen 55)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 7,240. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg)

July 28 - Santiago
Colo Colo (Chl) 2 (S Gonzalez 42, M Gonzalez og 47)
Universidad de Chile 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Salman (Chl)

MERCONORTE CUP

Group A
July 28 - Medellin
Atletico Nacional (Col) 2
America (Col) 3
July 29 - Quito
El Nacional (Ecu) 4 (Burbano, Herrera, Ferri, Ordonez)
Universitario (Per) 1 (Rivera)
Att: 5,000. **Ref:** Solis (Bol)

BRAZIL

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

July 25: Gama 2 Corinthians 4; Sport Recife 0 Vasco da Gama 0; Flamengo 1 Ponte Preta 0; Coritiba 2 Vitoria 0; Palmeiras 3 Juventude 1; Sao Paulo 5 Atletico MG 1; Botafogo SP 4 Portuguesa 2; Parana 0 Santos 2; Guarani 2 Internacional 1; Gremio 2 Atletico Paranaense 1.
July 28: Santos 3 Sao Paulo 2; Cruzeiro 4 Botafogo RJ 1.
Aug 1: Atletico Paraense 3 Flamengo 2; Atletico MG 2 Gama 0; Vitoria 2 Palmeiras 1; Ponte Preta 2 Gremio 2; Juventude 0 Cruzeiro 0; Botafogo RJ 0 Sport Recife 0; Corinthians 4 Botafogo SP 1; Portuguesa 1 Guarani 0; Internacional 0 Coritiba 2.

CHILE

July 25: U de Chile 2 Huachipato 0; Dep Concepcion 0 Colo Colo 1; Dep La Serena 0 Rangers 0; Palestino 2 Coquimbo Unido 2; O'Higgins 2 Cobreloa 1; Cobresal 2 Puerto Montt 1; Dep Iquique 1 Santiago Morning 0; U Catolica 1 Audax Italiano 0.
Aug 1: Rangers 2 Dep Iquique 1; Coquimbo Unido 2 U Catolica 3; Santiago Morning 1 U de Chile 2; Cobreloa 3 Palestino 2; Colo Colo 0 O'Higgins 0; Huachipato 1 Cobresal 1; Puerto Montt 1 Dep Concepcion 1; Audax Italiano 1 Dep La Serena 0.

CHILE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U de Chile	20	15	4	1	42	18	49
U Catolica	20	12	5	3	46	23	41
Cobreloa	20	11	6	3	47	20	39
Colo Colo	20	10	5	5	30	22	35
Cobresal	20	8	5	7	36	32	29
Santigo Morning	20	8	4	8	26	26	28
Palestino	20	8	3	9	38	37	27
Dep Iquique	20	7	6	7	27	27	27
Huachipato	20	6	7	7	29	30	25
Audax Italiano	20	6	6	8	23	23	24
Concepcion	20	6	6	8	26	27	24
Puerto Montt	20	6	6	8	31	33	24
Coquimbo Unido	20	4	7	9	32	54	19
O'Higgins	20	4	4	12	23	45	16
Dep La Serena	20	2	9	9	24	42	15
Rangers	20	3	5	12	17	38	14

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

July 25: At Huila 0 Dep Pasto 2; America 3 Indep Medellin 0; Indep Santa Fe 2 Once Caldas 2; Envigado 0 Dep Cali 0; Tolima 2 Quindio 3; At Junior 1 Bucaramanga 0; Cortulua 1 Millonarios 1.
Aug 1: Millonarios 2 Nacional 0; Dep Cali 1 Indep Santa Fe 1; Indep Medellin 4 At Huila 1; Dep Pasto 2 America 0; Union Santa Marta 1 Cortulua 2; Once Caldas 2 Envigado 3; Bucaramanga 1 Tolima 2; Quindio 0 At Junior 2.

ECUADOR

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

July 25: El Nacional 3 Delfin 1; LDU 1 Macara 2; Espoli 3 Emelec 0; Olmedo 1 Dep Cuenca 1; Barcelona 2 Dep Quito 0; Audaz Octubrino 0 Aucas 0.
Aug 1: El Nacional 2 Emelec 0; LDU 1 Dep Cuenca 0; Espoli 2 Aucas 3; Barcelona 2 Macra 0; Audaz Octubrino 2 Delfin 0; Olmedo 2 Dep. Quito 2.

ECUADOR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
El Nacional	20	11	8	1	31	9	11
LDU	20	11	2	7	29	25	35
Emelec	20	10	2	8	35	29	32
Barcelona	20	9	4	7	23	23	31
Olmedo	20	7	9	4	25	24	30
Macara	20	8	5	7	24	26	29
Espoli	20	8	3	9	30	25	27
Dep Cuenca	20	7	5	8	24	27	26
Delfin	20	7	5	8	24	32	26
Dep Quito	20	6	6	8	28	28	24
Aucas	20	5	2	13	22	30	17
Audaz Octubrino	20	5	1	14	15	32	16

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

July 25: 12 de Octubre 0 Cerro Porteno 0; Guarani 1 Olimpia 1; Presidente Hayes 1 Sol de America 0; Colegiales 1 San Lorenzo 1; Sportivo Luqueno 3 Resistencia 0.
Aug 1: Olimpia 1 12 de Octubre 1; Presidente Hayes 0 Guarani 0; Resistencia 0 Sol de America 0; San Lorenzo 3 Sportivo Luqueno 3; Cerro Cora 1 Colegiales 0.

PERU

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

July 25: Alianza Lima 4 IMI Talara 0; Universitario 2 Union Minas 0; Dep Municipal 1 Dep Pesquero 1; Cienciano 1 Sport Boys 1; Juan Aurich 1 Sporting Cristal 1; Alianza Atletico 1 Melgar 0.
Aug 1: Universitario 0 Sport Boys 1; Dep Pesquero 0 Alianza Lima 4; Union Minas 7 Dep Municipal 0; Sporting Cristal 1 Cienciano 3; IMI Talara 0 Alianza Atletico 2; Melgar 4 Juan Aurich 0.

URUGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

July 25: Penarol 4 Rentistas 0; Frontera Rivera 4 Dep Maldonado 0; Rampla Juniors 1 River Plate 3; Tacuarembo 0 Liverpool 2; Nacional 2 Huracan Buceo 3; Defensor 1 Cerro 0; Danubio 1 Bella Vista P 2.
Aug 1: Bella Vista P 1 Liverpool 3; Rampla Juniors 1 Nacional 2; River Plate 0 Huracan Buceo 0; Frontera Rivera 0 Defensor 1; Danubio 1 Tacuarembo 0; Rentistas 2 Bella Vista M; Dep Maldonado 1 Cerro 1.

CONCACAF

USA

July 22: Kansas City Wizards 4 Tampa Bay Mutiny 3.
July 23: Chicago Fire 2 San Jose Clash 2 *San Jose on shoot-outs.*
July 24: MetroStars 0 Miami Fusion 1; Columbus Crew 4 Dallas Burn 1.
July 25: New England 0 DC United 2; LA Galaxy 2 Kansas City Wizards 1; Colorado Rapids 2 Tampa Bay Mutiny 2 *Tampa Bay on shoot-outs.*
July 28: Colorado Rapids 1 LA Galaxy 0.
July 29: Miami Fusion 2 Tampa Bay Mutiny 2 *Miami on shoot-outs.*
July 31: LA Galaxy 1 Chicago Fire 0; Tampa Bay Mutiny 4 New England 1; Kansas City Wizards 3 San Jose Clash 1 *San Jose on shoot-outs*; Colorado Rapids 2 Dallas Burn 0.
Aug 1: Columbus Crew 4 Miami Fusion 0.
Aug 4: Dallas Burn 2 MetroStars 0.
Aug 5: Kansas City Wizards 1 Chicago Fire 2.
Aug 6: Colorado Rapids 0 New England 0 *Colorado on shoot-outs.*
Aug 7: Miami Fusion 2 MetroStars 0; San Jose Clash 1 LA Galaxy 4.
Aug 8: Chicago Fire 5 Colorado Rapids 0; DC United 2 Tampa Bay Mutiny 2 *DC United on shoot-outs*; Columbus Crew 2 Kansas City Wizards 1.
Aug 11: MetroStars 1 DC United 4.
Aug 12: New England 1 San Jose Clash 2.
Aug 13: Tampa Bay Mutiny 0 Colorado Rapids 1.
Aug 14: DC United 2 Columbus Crew 1; MetroStars 1 Kansas City Wizards 2; LA Galaxy 2 Dallas Burn 0; Chicago Fire 1 Miami Fusion 1 *Miami on shoot-outs.*

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	SW	L	F	A	Pts
DC United	23	12	4	7	47	32	40
Columbus Crew	22	9	5	8	32	23	32
Miami Fusion	23	6	4	13	29	40	22
Tampa Bay M	23	5	4	14	34	38	19
New England	21	5	3	13	27	36	18
MetroStars	22	2	3	17	19	45	9

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	SW	L	F	A	Pts
Colorado Rapids	22	13	3	6	36	26	42
LA Galaxy	22	11	3	8	31	18	36
Chicago Fire	22	11	1	10	37	23	34
Dallas Burn	23	10	1	12	37	23	31
San Jose Clash	22	3	9	10	31	41	18
Kansas City W	23	5	2	16	28	43	17

SW = shoot-out win

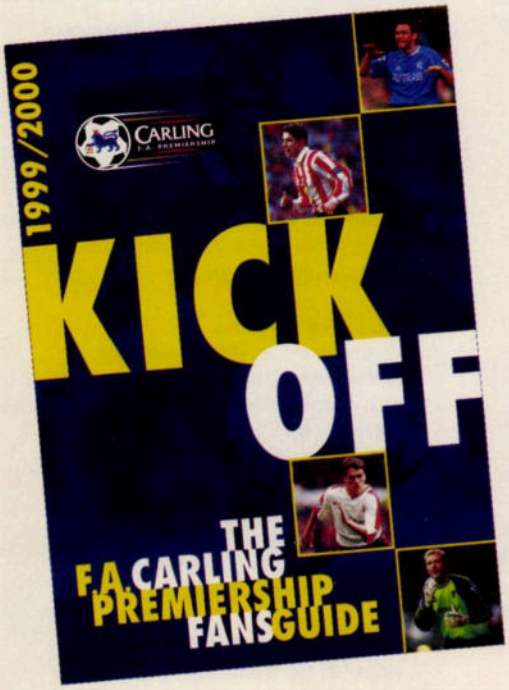
Which Premier League team used sheep to cut its grass?

Where do I sit at White Hart Lane to view the big screen?

What is the best way of getting from Newcastle to the Dell?

Which referee gave your team the most cards?

What Premiership team's midfield scored the most goals in the 1998/99 season?



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Crash!

The Confederations Cup fiasco is the worst possible start, says Keir Radnedge

Humiliation...German libero Lothar Matthaus

THE national team's flop in the Confederations Cup in Mexico was exactly what the game did not want going into a new season.

Everyone is supposed to be bright, confident and optimistic on the eve of a fresh campaign. Instead, the 4-0 defeat by Brazil exacerbated by the 2-0 upset against the United States raised all manner of anguished howls.

"How could Germany embarrass themselves like that?" asked Welt am Sonntag across the top of its front page. "The world is laughing at German soccer now."

Analyst Udo Lattek, the former Bayern, Borussia Monchengladbach and Barcelona coach, described the trip as a "debacle" with consequences that could be enormous. He said: "Our players didn't play with each other, but alongside each other. Why can't they enjoy the game the way the Americans did? The deeper causes lie in our German mentality. We Germans are far too serious, we forget about having fun when we play."

Lattek said that coach Erich Ribbeck, brought out of retirement to succeed Berti Vogts less than a year ago, should consider quitting. But that is unlikely. Ribbeck intends to soldier on to the end of his two-year contract. He can still buy himself time if Germany qualify for the European Championship finals in Holland and Belgium.

Ribbeck insisted: "I'll decide when the time comes. I've got more important things to think about now. The only thing that matters is European Championship qualification. If we don't achieve that then they are going to chop my head off."

At least Bayern president Franz Beckenbauer produced a note of irony in suggesting that the defeats – the 2-0 win over New Zealand fooled nobody – might help gain support for Germany's bid to host the 2006 World Cup. Beckenbauer said: "We've opened the gate a bit wider for 2006 because now that we are losing matches like other teams we've become a bit more likeable."

The defeats were blamed by UEFA general secretary Gerd Aigner on the scheduling of the Confederations Cup at a time when European players were still mentally on holiday. But there is more to it than that. Vogts, shrugging his shoulders, considered the twin defeats mere further evidence of his long-time concerns at a lack of quality within Germany's new footballing generation. As he said: "The motor won't start if there's no fuel in the tank."

On one level, it would be wrong to read too much into the Mexico affair. Injuries and club demands for pre-season training meant that Ribbeck took a weak squad with him – national captain Oliver Bierhoff, preparing for the new Italian season and Champions League campaign with Milan, was badly missed up front.

Back home, Bayern Munich collected the first trophy of the season when they avenged last term's Cup Final defeat by overcoming Werder Bremen 2-1 in the League Cup Final. The German champions, who were beaten on penalties by Werder in their depressing conclusion to last season, collected £700,000 as prize money for their third consecutive win in the now-traditional pre-season tournament.

Paulo Sergio, who joined Bayern this summer from Roma for £4million, opened the scoring in the 34th minute with a delicate chip over Werder keeper Frank Rost. Left-back Michael Tarnat made it 2-0 from a free-kick two minutes before the break. Werder then reduced the arrears – and kept the game open – thanks to a 56th-minute goal from Soeren Seidel.

Bayern were missing several key players, including playmaker and new captain Stefan Effenberg – out for seven weeks after damaging a ligament in training – and another injury victim, international goalkeeper Oliver Kahn.

At least French World Cup-winning wing-back Bixente Lizarazu and Brazilian striker Giovane Elber promised to have recovered from last season's ligament injuries to help launch Bayern's new campaign. And it will be fascinating to see how Paraguay's wonderboy, Roque Santa Cruz, adjusts to German football and to the lifestyle.

Bayern are again favourites to win the title, with Bayer Leverkusen, Kaiserslautern and Borussia Dortmund the most likely challengers. No change there, either – which is why Leverkusen coach Christoph Daum was particularly irritated that Brazilians Emerson and Ze Roberto were start-of-season doubts because of fatigue arising from the Confederations Cup.

Kaiserslautern strengthened their ranks with the surprise signing of French midfielder Youri Djorkaeff from Inter. Djorkaeff admitted that the move was something of a gamble. He could easily have gone home to France without taking too much of a pay cut.

Instead, he decided to take on the Bundesliga challenge, as if to try to prove that last season's inconsistent form was more a product of Inter's slump than something personal.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Christoph Dabrowski (Werder Bremen)
Born in Poland but now a naturalised German. Lanky midfielder whose forte is his ball-winning and long passes.

Sebastian Deisler (Hertha Berlin)
Germany boss Erich Ribbeck has already predicted a bright international future for the teenage midfield general. Recently left Monchengladbach for Hertha.

Robert Enke (Benfica)
Keeper with extraordinary ability and coolness. Moved to Portugal this summer after a magnificent first Bundesliga season for Monchengladbach. See profile, page 63.

Fabian Ernst (Hamburg)
Under-21 international and excellent defensive midfielder. Joined Hamburg from Hannover at the start of last season and made an immediate impact.

Sascha Rosler (Ulm)
A striker for the German Under-21s but used in midfield by newly-promoted Ulm. Great left foot.

Team by team, by Nick Bidwell

ARMINIA BIELEFELD

Even without Dortmund-bound striker Giuseppe Reina, this could be the season when Arminia finally become established in the top flight. Key players are veteran goalscorer Bruno Labbadia and recently-capped utility man Ronald Maul.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN

No other team in the country seems better equipped to challenge Bayern than the Leverkusener. They have been significantly strengthened by the signing of German internationals Oliver Neuville (Hansa Rostock) and Bernd Schneider (Eintracht Frankfurt), and Brazilian Robson Ponte (Guarani). The form of the prolific Ulf Kirsten and Brazilian midfield pair Emerson and Ze Roberto will be crucial.

BAYERN MUNICH

It's been business as usual for the club dubbed FC Hollywood. Keeper Oliver Kahn criticised sweeper and German Player of the Year Lothar Matthaus for contemplating leaving the club in mid-season to join Metrostars, while maverick midfielder Mario Basler is at loggerheads with his employers over a new contract. Nevertheless, Bayern remain the team to beat. They finished an amazing 15 points clear at the top last season and have made several quality buys this summer: defender Patrik Andersson (Monchengladbach), Brazilian attacker Paulo Sergio (Roma) and teenage Paraguayan Roque Santa Cruz (Olimpia Asuncion). French left-back Bixente Lizarazu and Brazilian striker Giovane Elber are both near full fitness.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

They grabbed the final Champions League berth in the 1998-99 Bundesliga, but their performances were nothing to write home about. Hence the Borussia board's decision to spend £15m on new signings, including *three* strikers: the German international Fredi Bobic from Stuttgart, Giuseppe Reina of Bielefeld and Monaco's Nigerian Victor Ikpeba. But the Dortmunder also gained defensively when they persuaded international man-marker Christian Worns to return home from Paris Saint-Germain.

DUISBURG

Not the most subtle of sides, but coach Friedhelm Funkel has moulded a disciplined, hard-working and very effective unit. Newcomers to their ranks include Croat defender Marijan Kovacevic (Wolfsburg) and all-rounder Martin Schneider (Monchengladbach). Lithuanian keeper Gintaras Stauce and striker Markus Beierle are still the main men.

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT

Thanks in no small measure to the motivational powers of Jorg Berger – the club's third boss of the season – Eintracht saved their Bundesliga skin by winning their last four games of 1998-99. To guard against any repeat of such end-of-season palpitations, the Frankfurter have been busy, buying freshly-capped Germany midfielder Horst Heldt (1860 Munich), Togolese striker Bachirou Salou (Dortmund), and Congo midfielder Rolf Guie-Mien (Karlsruhe).

FREIBURG

Survival is the only objective for this exotic line-up of Georgians, Tunisians and bargain-basement signings from lower German leagues. The Black Forest club play an attractive short-passing game, but tend to be second best in a physical contest. Young midfielder Ali Gunes is their rising star.

HAMBURG

One of the all-time great German clubs who have failed to punch their weight for well over a decade. Even good new signings such as Iranian Mehdi Mahdavikia (Bochum) and exciting young attacker Roy Prager (Wolfsburg) might not be enough to push them up into a European qualifying slot.

HANSA ROSTOCK

They had a close encounter with relegation last season and life will be doubly hard now that their two most influential players, stopper Marko Rehmer and forward Oliver Neuville, have left, for Hertha Berlin and Bayer Leverkusen respectively. On the plus side, former German international full-back Rene Schneider has returned to the club after a stint with Dortmund.

HERTHA BERLIN

In the short space of two years, Hertha have progressed from Second Division to Champions League, and they obviously do not intend to stop there. Brilliant young Gladbach midfielder Sebastian Deisler was snatched from under the noses of a host of bigger European teams. Also signed were Marko Rehmer (Rostock), Bayern Munich's seriously under-used Iranian Ali Daei, promising Under-21 forward Kai Michalke (Bochum) and Greek schemer Kostas Konstantinidis (Panathinaikos). Hertha will continue to rely heavily on last season's top Bundesliga scorer, Michael Preetz, and playmaker Dariusz Wosz.

KAISERSLAUTERN

Arguably the most important moment of their close season was the board's refusal to allow classy Swiss international Ciriaco Sforza to leave for Dortmund. Wily old coach Otto Rehhagel has high hopes for the newcomers, Swedish striker Jorgen Pettersson (Monchengladbach), Yugoslav defender Slobodan Komljenovic and attacker Tomas Sobotzik (Eintracht). But what he needs more than anything else in the coming months is luck with injuries. Last season, over half his first team were out with long-term problems.

1860 MUNICH

After a promising start to 1998-99, Munich's second club dropped like a stone in the post-winter-break period. The signing of veteran midfielder Thomas Hassler looks a gamble but more substantial returns should come from ex-Schalke attacker Martin Max, defender Stephan Passlack (Gladbach), and Austrian midfielders Christian Prosenik and Marcus Purk (Rapid Wien). New Czech libero Tomas Votava ruptured a tendon in pre-season.

SCHALKE

Virtually every key player at the club – keeper Oliver Reck, sweeper Olaf Thon, stopper Johan De Kock and midfielders Radek Latal and Marc Wilmots – suffered a bad injury last season. But if the top men stay fit and the new partnership of Danish striker Ebbe Sand (Brondby) and Ghanaian Gerald Asamoah (Hannover) quickly gels, Schalke can challenge for a UEFA Cup place.

STUTTGART

After the sales of Bobic (Dortmund), Akpoborie (Wolfsburg), and skipper and sweeper Frank Verlaat (Ajax), a major rebuilding job faces new coach Ralf Rangnick, the architect of Ulm's surprise promotion. Bulgarian Krassimir Balakov is still there to run midfield, and new faces include Czech striker Pavel Kuka and schemer Heiko Gerber (both Nurnberg), Brazilian libero Marcelo Jose Bordon (Sao Paulo) and the free-scoring Romanian striker Ioan Ganea (Rapid Bucharest).

ULM

The city on the northern border of Bavaria is famous for being the birthplace of Albert Einstein, and now for being the home of a football team who have made a remarkable two-year transition from regional league to Bundesliga. Teamwork and a tight pressing game will continue to be their watchwords.

UNTERHACHING

The club from the Munich suburbs are also in the Bundesliga for the first time. Coach Lorenz Kostner's team have low gates, a small budget and little cash, but are well drilled and combative.

WERDER BREMEN

Last season's Cup win only partly made up for a very disappointing League campaign. New coach Thomas Schaaf, a Werder defender for 17 years, has midfielder Marco Bode, Bosnian striker Rade Bogdanovic, Austrian Andy Herzog and Swiss defender Raphael Wicky, but a tendency to fade late in games and commit costly individual mistakes has to be rooted out. Defender Frank Baumann is the only notable signing.

WOLFSBURG

With hardline coach Wolfgang Wolf on the case, there is little chance of any player coasting after their surprise UEFA Cup qualification. They will miss Roy Prager (Hamburg), but Wolfsburg have pulled off some transfer coups of their own: Nigerian Jonathan Akpoborie (Stuttgart), Romanian midfielder Dorinel Munteanu (Koln), forward Christian Brand (Werder) and left wing-back Patrick Weiser (Rennes). Pole Andrzej Juskowiak remains at the point of the attack.

Cesar leads Paris push

Andre Duclos on the new arrivals in the French First Division

Brazilian at the back...PSG's Cesar

AFTER Ricardo, Cesar: another Brazilian centre-back comes to play for Paris Saint-Germain.

It all ended in tears for Ricardo when he became manager. But the 23-year-old Cesar, a reserve defender in the recent Copa America, will be expected only to play. An uneasy initial performance in last year's Gold Cup in the USA did not put PSG off. A five-year contract and £9million, split all kinds of ways, have duly brought Cesar to the capital, after PSG sought the advice of their Brazilian former star Rai before the signing.

Selling Alain Goma to Newcastle and Christian Worns to Borussia Dortmund left some gaps in defence, but PSG will be hoping for something much better than the miserable time they had last season, with all those changes of personnel both at managerial and directorial level: Giresse, Jorge, Bietry. But at least they are now a firmly based and solidly supported Parisian club; such a contrast with the bleak situation some 30 years ago.

That was when support in Paris was so pitifully meagre that dear old Racing Club, a standard-bearer of French football for so many years and famed especially for the much-loved Armistice Day games against Arsenal at Stade Colombes, were so down on their luck that they had to resort to a bizarre amalgamation with the Sedan club, playing home matches in Sedan – a city of unhappy Franco-Prussian War memory – and Paris. Now Sedan are at long last back in the top division, and entirely under their own steam.

Staying there for longer than a season will be problematical. In recent years the club have seriously risked going into liquidation, and only desperate appeals have averted relegation, for economic reasons. But each time Sedan scraped by on appeal.

Even with the substantial TV money the club now receive they have had to concentrate on signing players they can get for nothing.

An exception that proves the rule is the experienced Rennes midfielder, Laurent Huard, for whom they spilled out £1.75m. Sedan manager Patrick Remy exploited his long acquaintance with veteran Auxerre manager Guy Roux, for whom he once played, by getting another experienced player, the Senegalese Oumar Dieng, on loan.

Saint-Etienne, by contrast, have had many glorious seasons in the First Division, and that notable European Cup Final in Glasgow, versus Bayern Munich in 1976. Now they too are back in the top ranks but their form at the end of last season was surprisingly fragile.

No fewer than 11 signings, though none of major substance, suggests they know all too well that their form must radically improve. And they have sold just as many players.

One of the newcomers is the young Arsenal defender David Grondin, who should now have the chances that he never had at Highbury.

Nancy have signed Said Chiba on the warm recommendation of his fellow Moroccan international, the gifted Mustapha Hadji, now expensively sold by La Coruna to Coventry. Chiba, another midfield man, described as solid but creative, also comes from Spanish football, though in his case, it is after "two difficult seasons with Compostela".

He is a World Cup and African Nations Cup first-teamer and is happy that Hadji's younger brother is at Nancy, for whom Hadji also played.

Will Ibrahima Bakayoko find life more agreeable with Marseille – I don't just mean the milieu! – than he did at Everton? Two goals within the first eight minutes against Steaua Bucharest in a pre-season friendly was a pretty good beginning; three more were contributed by Fabrizio Ravanelli, who has stayed at Marseille despite all those stories suggesting a return to Italy. The two of them should be able to constitute quite a strikeforce.

Marseille now have Stephane Dalmat on their books and will expect such a lot from him, now that he has become the most costly transfer ever between two French clubs: at only 20. Lens, who bought him from Chateauroux, pocketed the bagatelle of £7m, which may not seem excessive in Anglo-Italian terms but is indeed sensational here.

"If I hadn't been a footballer," admits the modest Stephane, "life would have been hard for me. I could have been a bandit or a hooligan." His reputation for being calm is, he says, a false one; everyone knows that they should not try to tread on his toes!

It is strange to think in these days, when 10-year-old players are grabbed by big clubs, that at the age of 15 Dalmat, playing for the local Joue team of Tours, was obliged to write to a welter of clubs, only two of which even bothered to reply to him. One of those, luckily for them, was Chateauroux, the other Angers, and he preferred the first.

How ironic that when Nantes sent Guy Hillion to his family's house it was in quest of his younger brother, Wilfried! Their massive loss.

They did give Stephane a trial, but he was injured almost before it started and they did not persevere. So it was that Chateauroux proved to be Dalmat's destination.

The following season, with the club unexpectedly promoted, Dalmat quickly won a regular first-team place. Suddenly the big foreign clubs were gathering round. These included Inter and Juventus, the latter offering £3.5m. However, Dalmat refused to join them, afraid he might sink without trace.

Now he will surely be in the running for a place in the France team, despite the competition.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Philippe Christanval (Monaco)
Stylish sweeper who has just taken over from Franck Dumas, now at Newcastle, as the organiser of the defence.

Stephane Dalmat (Marseille)
Outstanding defensive midfielder recently bought from Lens for £7m, a record for an internal French transfer.

Fabrice Fernandes (Rennes)
The teenage Parisian is developing into a playmaker of much vision and poise and was one of the key players in the club's surprise fifth-place finish last term.

Soufiane Kone (Nancy)
Arguably the best thing to come out of Nancy since Platini. Explosive young striker likened to George Weah.

Olivier Monterrubio (Nantes)
Exciting attacker who combines pace, skill and directness. Scored the winning penalty in the 1999 Cup Final.

Team by team, by Nick Bidwell

AUXERRE

Champions in 1996 and regular qualifiers for Europe over the past decade, the Auxerrois suffered a calamitous 1998-99, only avoiding relegation at the eleventh hour. Long-serving coach Guy Roux – in charge since 1961 – will be pinning his hopes on Stephane Guivarc'h, back with Auxerre following barren spells with Newcastle and Rangers.

BASTIA

Traditionally, the Corsicans get by on character and a closely-knit squad. But with key midfield men Jose Clayton and Franck Jurietti refusing to turn up for pre-season training, the atmosphere in the camp is not the healthiest. No new signings of note, but coach Fred Antonetti is back at the club after a stint in the J.League.

BORDEAUX

Despite the Champions League cash heading their way, the French title holders have been prudent in the summer transfer market. Left-back Jerome Bonnissel and schemer Stephane Ziani were bought from Deportivo La Coruna, keeper Teddy Richert and defender Laurent Batlles arrived from Toulouse, while midfielder Jean-Christophe Rouviere was lured away from Montpellier. Much will depend on Ziani. He has to fill the huge gap left in midfield by the sale to Paris Saint-Germain of Ali Benarbia. With Johan Micoud, Ziani will have to supply the bullets for strikers Lilian Laslandes and Sylvain Wiltord.

LE HAVRE

Every year the Normandy club are favourites for the drop, but every year they somehow survive. New signings include Brazilian midfielder Veiga (Basle) and striker Thomas Deniaud (Auxerre), but more important could be the recall of Hamed Diallo, who was the Second Division's top scorer last season while on loan with Laval.

LENS

Half the team checked out this summer. Central defender Cyrille Magnier joined Auxerre, Barcelona snapped up utility man Frederic Dehu, brilliant youngster Stephane Dalmat moved to Marseille and the Franco-Czech strikeforce of Tony Vairelles and Vladimir Smicer moved on to Lyon and Liverpool respectively. Fresh faces such as midfielders Olivier Dacourt (Everton) and Jocelyn Blanchard (Juventus) and the young Cameroon winger Joseph-Desire Job (Lyon) are all good recruits, but talk of the Champions League seems premature.

LYON

Nobody can accuse Lyon of skimping in their bid to capture their first-ever national title. With their coffers swollen by Gallic media group Pathe, the club spent £24m on Barcelona's Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson, midfielder Pierre Laigle from Sampdoria and Lens attacker Tony Vairelles. Add the talent of keeper Gregory Coupet, midfielders Steed Malbranque and Vikash Dhorasoo, plus experienced goalscorer Alain Caveglia, and you have the nucleus of title contenders.

MARSEILLE

Speculation linking OM with a host of names came to nothing and only the £7m signing of young Lens midfielder Stephane Dalmat and the loan deal struck with Lazio for Ivan De la Pena smacked of star quality. With Christophe Dugarry set for a long ban after failing a drugs test, recently-arrived Ibrahima Bakayoko (Everton) and Kaba Diawara (Arsenal) should both see plenty of action. But so much of Marseille's title challenge will depend on playmaker Robert Pires and front-runner Florian Maurice. Ex-Boca Juniors libero Eduardo Berizzo must fill the boots of Laurent Blanc, now at Internazionale.

METZ

League runners-up just two years ago, but too many key players were allowed to leave for pastures new. Now a mid-table spot is probably the best they can hope for. The pick of their new signings is the nippy Ukraine forward Serhii Skachenko.

MONACO

On the front row of the grid alongside Bordeaux, Lyon and Marseille. Under rookie coach Claude Puel, the Monegasques recovered from a poor start to finish within a whisker of the Champions League last season and his squad looks stronger this term. Youngsters such as libero Philippe Christanval, playmaker Ludovic Giuly and striker David Trezeguet are developing nicely, new signings Marcello Gallardo, the Argentine attacking midfielder (River Plate), and Italian front-runner Marco Simone (Paris Saint-Germain) should add verve and craft to the attacking third, while keeper Fabien Barthez has signed an improved contract.

MONTPELLIER

The main talking point here is the re-forming of the exciting attacking triumvirate that shot Nantes to the title in 1994-95. Striker Nicolas Ouedec joined from Paris Saint-Germain late last season and has been joined by Patrice Loko (Lorient) and Reynald Pedros (Parma).

NANCY

With little money available to buy reinforcements, coach Laszlo Boloni, the former Romanian international midfielder, will be looking for more goalscoring exploits from teenage forward Soufiane Kone.

NANTES

At the 1999 French Cup winners the accent will be on home-grown talent and slick, one-touch football. Expect more good things from their excellent crop of kids: keeper Mickael Landreau, midfield dynamo Sebastien Piocelle and attacker Olivier Monterrubio.

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

A second consecutive season of under-achievement inevitably resulted in a throng of players leaving, notably German marker Christian Worns (Dortmund), stopper Alain Goma (Newcastle) and Italian attacker Marco Simone (Monaco). Newcomers charged with sparking a double-quick renaissance are midfield prompter Ali Benarbia (Bordeaux), Nigerian sweeper Godwin Okpara (Strasbourg) and Brazilian stopper Cesar (Portuguesa). Former French national team assistant Philippe Bergeroo, PSG coach only since the back-end of last term, should hope some of Aime Jacquet's winning ways have rubbed off on him.

RENNES

In 1998-99, his first season in management, ex-Paris Saint-Germain and France midfielder Paul Le Guen worked wonders at the Breton club. To his relief, star Burundi striker Shabani Nonda was not whisked away by a larger club during the close season. Watch out for rising star midfielder Fabrice Fernandes.

SAINT-ETIENNE

France's most popular team throughout the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s are back in the top flight after a gap of three years. As *Les Verts* are packed with youthful promise, the club have wisely spent the close season bringing in the First Division expertise of long-time Lens sweeper Jean-Guy Wallemme and highly-rated Lorient midfielder Stephane Pedron.

SEDAN

Promotion did not trigger an influx of new players. Manager Patrick Remy says his team proved they can compete at the top level by reaching the Final of last season's French Cup. Key man is left-sided midfielder Olivier Quint.

STRASBOURG

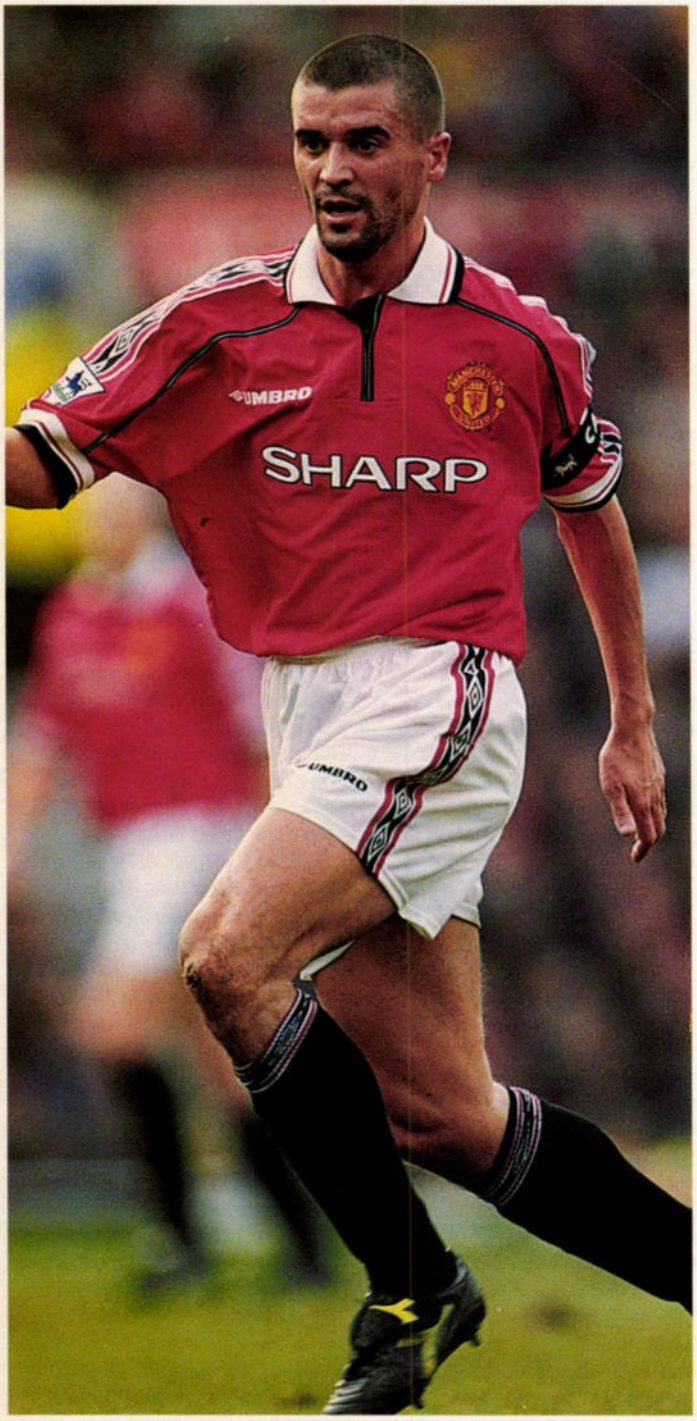
Club president Patrick Proisy has already sounded a warning to his squad: "The last two seasons have been incredibly disappointing for us and I won't accept another." To this end, Strasbourg have signed Argentine striker Diego Garay (Newell's Old Boys), Austrian front-man Mario Haas (Sturm Graz) and two young members of Cameroon's World Cup 98 squad, defender Pierre Njanka and midfielder Joseph Ndo (both from Swiss club Neuchatel Xamax).

TROYES

It's been 21 years since Troyes were last in the First Division and they could not have been given a more demanding initiation to top-flight reality. Their first seven fixtures are against PSG, Lyon, Bordeaux, Strasbourg, Monaco, Nantes and Marseille. Not surprisingly, the club from the Champagne region are a hot tip for immediate relegation. However, star turns like keeper Tony Heurtebis and goal-getter Samuel Lobe have other ideas.

Of course, the money doesn't come into it...

Now a kid joins the sulking stars at the trough. Here we go again, says Gavin Hamilton



Asking for more...Roy Keane may not get his own way

ONE of the most-hyped seasons ever began with rows over, you guessed it, money. Nicolas Anelka sulked his way all the way to Real Madrid after insisting he would never play for Arsenal again. Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink moved to Atletico Madrid after Leeds rejected his £45,000-a-week claim. And Manchester United reached stalemate in their negotiations over Roy Keane's new contract.

Even one of the Premier League's youngest players got in on the act. Everton's teenage striker, Francis Jeffers, asked for a transfer after his request for pay parity with the club's senior players was rejected. "It's not about money," insisted the 18-year-old.

Leeds manager David O'Leary was determined not to give in to Hasselbaink's demands. "I'm not surprised that people are calling him a greedy son of a bitch," he said. "He keeps on peeling off from the rest of the players in training and asking me why I won't pay him what he wants or sell him, and I'm sick to death of it."

Leeds eventually accepted Atletico's £12million offer and packed the Dutchman off to Spain.

Meanwhile, Alex Ferguson, when he was not plugging his autobiography, was trying to persuade Keane to reduce his £40,000-a-week demand, while also trying to convince the United board to revise their rigid wage structure.

United know all too well the implications of giving in to Keane, whose current contract expires next summer. If they fail to persuade their captain to sign a new deal, he will be able to move abroad on a free transfer next July, with all the lucrative signing-on fee that entails. But if the club agree to Keane's wage demands, they also will have an obligation to renegotiate player contracts across the board as United's other stars seek to close the wage differential with Keane.

Ferguson has been involved in his own wealth creation exercise. He and his ghost-writer, Hugh McIlvanney, reportedly have received £1m between them for the book. The tabloid serialisation tried to wring every last word of scandal from Ferguson.

There were few revelations – hardly surprising given Ferguson's low-key approach to relations with the press – but he did disclose that he had been offered a £40,000 bung by an agent representing Andrei Kanchelskis, in order to speed up the player's transfer to Everton in 1995.

On the pitch, United began the season as they started the 1998-99 campaign – with a defeat by Arsenal in the Charity Shield.

Business as usual.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Joe Cole (West Ham)
For once, believe the hype. The 17-year-old is arguably the most naturally talented English midfielder since Gazza.

Michael Ball (Everton)
A ray of sunshine amid the doom and gloom at Everton. Could be the answer to Kevin Keegan's problems on the left side of England's midfield.

Andy Campbell (Middlesbrough)
Home-grown striker who shone in pre-season.

Jonathan Greening (Man Utd)
Midfielder who made his initial breakthrough last season and is snapping at the heels of the established stars.

David Thompson (Liverpool)
Forget the Spice Boys, meet the Scouse Boy. A local lad to star among the foreigners at Anfield.

Team by team

ARSENAL

Nicolas Anelka has been replaced by Thierry Henry, who rejoins Arsene Wenger, his mentor at Monaco, in a £11m move from Juventus. Meanwhile, Davor Suker has a chance to revive his flagging reputation following a £3m transfer from Real Madrid. With Bergkamp, Kanu, Overmars and Ljungberg, Wenger has plenty of other attacking options, but Arsenal's problems lie further back. With Bould sold to Sunderland and Adams still struggling with injuries, the Gunners, dare we say it, need a centre-back.

ASTON VILLA

A few new faces at Villa Park – David James from Liverpool, George Boateng (Coventry), Najwan Graieb (Hapoel Haifa) – but nobody to suggest that a revival of the challenge which flagged in the second half of last season is on the cards. On the plus side, manager John Gregory has persuaded Fulham to take malcontent Stan Collymore on loan.

BRADFORD CITY

In the top division for the first time in 77 years and not expected to hang around for very long. Manager Paul Jewell has invested wisely in experience: David Wetherall, Lee Sharpe, Gunnar Halle (all Leeds), Dean Saunders (Benfica) and Neil Redfearn (relegations in successive seasons with Barnsley and Charlton). Valley Parade is a sell-out for the whole campaign, but Bradford probably will win more friends than games.

CHELSEA

The great pretenders have flashed the cash on English grit (£10m Chris Sutton) and French guile (£3m Didier Deschamps). They will add substance to a team who flattered to deceive last season. The importance of Gustavo Poyet's return from a serious knee injury cannot be understated. Dutch utility player Mario Melchiot (signed on a free from Ajax) and Dane Jes Hogh (Fenerbahce) will be useful squad players, but if Chelsea progress in the Champions League Gianluca Vialli may regret his clearout of the home-grown youngsters Michael Duberry, Andy Myers and Eddie Newton.

COVENTRY CITY

Manager Gordon Strachan pulled off a major coup by signing Moroccan Mustapha Hadji, the reigning African Footballer of the Year, and his compatriot Youssef Chippo. The loss of George Boateng to Villa is a blow, but Coventry must be confident of avoiding the annual relegation battle.

DERBY COUNTY

Resourceful manager Jim Smith has bought Crewe youngster Seth Johnston, with Argentinian striker Esteban Fuentes seemingly on his way. But the sale of Paulo Wanchope suggests a change up in gear from mid-table cruisers to UEFA Cup challengers will be difficult.

EVERTON

Money was too tight to mention at Goodison Park this summer, with Kevin Campbell (£3m from Trabzonspor) and Mark Pembridge (£800,000 from Benfica) the only new arrivals. In contrast, the club received £15m from the sale of Olivier Dacourt (Lens), Ibrahima Bakayoko (Marseille), Marco Materazzi (Perugia) and Craig Short (Blackburn). Francis Jeffers' contract row only served to emphasize the extent of Everton's problems.

LEEDS UNITED

The £12m departure of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink threatened to derail the bandwagon that was beginning to gain momentum during the summer. But there is no disguising the quality of the youngsters that manager David O'Leary has assembled. Michael Bridges (Sunderland), Michael Duberry (Chelsea) and Danny Mills (Charlton) are the latest kids to arrive at Elland Road. If O'Leary can land a decent striker with the Hasselbaink cash, Leeds can challenge for a Champions League place.

LEICESTER CITY

Tim Flowers should prove an adequate replacement for the Spain-bound Kasey Keller, but early-season injuries to Emile Heskey and Steve Walsh mean manager Martin O'Neill's motivational powers will be more vital than ever if Leicester are to rise above the mire.

LIVERPOOL

In the wake of Steve McManaman's departure to Real Madrid, manager Gerard Houllier performed major surgery. On their way out were Paul Ince (Middlesbrough), David James (Villa), Oyvind Leonhardsen (Tottenham), Jean-Michel Ferri (Sochaux) and Sean Dundee (Stuttgart). In come eight new faces – all foreigners. Vladimir Smicer looks to be the pick of the bunch while the return from injury of Fowler and Owen gives Houllier plenty of attacking options. The doubts, yet again, concern the defence where newcomers such as Westerveld and Hyypia are hardly proven world-class operators.

MANCHESTER UNITED

A marathon season lies ahead, with a campaign on at least six fronts (seven if a return to the FA Cup can be arranged). United are unlikely to repeat last season's success without major reinforcements and so far they have not been forthcoming although Mark Bosnich replaces Peter Schmeichel in goal.

MIDDLESBROUGH

Bryan Robson has rescued Paul Ince from a potentially embarrassing stint in Liverpool's reserves. Add Paul Gascoigne and Boro have an experienced, if a little injury-prone midfield. German wing-back Christian Ziege was the big buy. Another season of steady, if uneventful progress.

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Ruud Gullit has splashed out £6m on the promising Kieron Dyer (Ipswich) and bought a string of foreign centre-backs: Alain Goma, Franck Dumas, Marcelino. With Duncan Ferguson still troubled by injury, so much depends on the form and fitness of Alan Shearer. Early signs are that Gullit is in for a stressful season. What price the Dutchman as the first coach to quit?

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

With influential Benito Carbone angling for a return to Italy, manager Danny Wilson will have his hands full trying to steer Wednesday away from the drop zone. Belgian striker Gilles De Bilde and Dutchman Gerald Sibon have arrived from the reserves at PSV and Ajax; the two Scots from Celtic, Simon Donnelly and Phil O'Donnell, may prove better signings.

SOUTHAMPTON

Another season, another scrap. Dean Richards (Wolves) and Bruno Leal (Sporting Lisbon) are the new faces, but Matthew Le Tissier will again be the man on whom so much depends.

SUNDERLAND

Back after two seasons away and with a stadium that ranks among the finest in the Premiership. Stefan Schwarz (£4m from Valencia) is the major new arrival. Unless Kevin Phillips transfers his goalscoring prowess to the Premiership, Peter Reid's men could struggle.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

George Graham has not quite won over the Spurs faithful, but if his team carry on where they left off last season, acceptance cannot be far off. Steffen Iversen and Sol Campbell are their key men, while new arrivals Chris Perry (Wimbledon) and Oyvind Leonhardsen (Liverpool) should slot in easily.

WATFORD

A welcome return for Graham Taylor to the top flight with the club where he made his name in the 1980s. Instead of adding to the squad, Taylor has chosen to reward the existing players with improved contracts. It may not be enough come next May.

WEST HAM UNITED

Manager Harry Redknapp has taken a gamble on Costa Rican Paulo Wanchope as the inspiration to replace Celtic-bound Eyal Berkovic. More consistency is needed if last year's fifth place is to be repeated.

WIMBLEDON

Welcome to the weird and wonderful world of Egil Olsen, the route-one guru with a fondness for wellington boots and Marxist politics. Norwegians Tore Pedersen (once of Blackburn) and Kjetil Waeller, and Israeli Valid Badir are the new faces.

Old Firm new boys...Celtic's Eyal Berkovic and Michael Mols of Rangers

SCOTLAND

The Big Two grow even bigger

Celtic and Rangers' spending power leaves the rest trailing

THE NEW season began amid signs that the standard formula of a two-horse contest will again prevail. The improving resources of the two principal clubs, Rangers and Celtic, are allowing them to pull even further ahead of the remainder, who seem already consigned to fighting for the minor honours.

Rangers were surprisingly inactive in the transfer market during the close season, with Dutch striker Michael Mols the only significant addition to Dick Advocaat's squad. He made his presence felt immediately with two goals in his first competitive outing, a 4-1 victory in Finland over FC Haka in the Champions League second qualifying round.

Rangers completed their passage through the tie with a 3-0 home win and are facing infinitely more exacting opponents in the shape of Parma in the next qualifying round. Having aspired to the domestic treble last season, Rangers must make a long-awaited impact on the European stage to confirm their ongoing development.

By contrast, **Celtic**, having finished last season trophyless, have been very active during the summer, with the managerial team of Kenny Dalglish and John Barnes generating great optimism among fans with their positive views on how the club should progress.

Dalglish has overseen the acquisition of highly-rated continentals such as Eyal Berkovic, Olivier Tebily and Bobby Petta, and Barnes has been given the opportunity to demonstrate his tactical abilities, gained largely as a result of his many years at Liverpool.

The exceptional level of interest in the revamped side was illustrated by crowds totalling more than 111,000 for two pre-season friendlies, against Leeds and Newcastle, but a clearer indication of the direction in which the new-look Celtic side are heading became apparent in the first League game, a 5-0 away win over **Aberdeen**.

The Dons, who have struggled for so long to regain the dominance they enjoyed in Scottish football during the early 1980s, have given their supporters little cause for hope of a change in fortune. A new manager, Ebbe Skovdahl, has been recruited, but the playing staff remains largely unaltered and the defeat by Celtic provided Skovdahl with an idea of the task he now faces.

Both Edinburgh sides began the season in promising fashion, with **Hearts** looking to build on the excellent form displayed in the latter stages of last season and **Hibernian**, newly promoted, demonstrating their intent with a number of high-profile continental signings.

Dundee cast aside any lingering doubts about their ability to fulfil the criteria for Premier League membership by hastily erecting two new stands during the summer. This created an all-seated, all-covered arena at Dens Park. However, it was **Dundee United** who emerged triumphant from the opening derby of the season.

A failure to significantly strengthen their player pools should ensure that neither Dundee club will provide any sustained title challenge. The same could be said of **St Johnstone** and **Kilmarnock**, although both have a taste of UEFA Cup football. For **Motherwell**, having Andy Goram in goal should be worth a few points, even though the former Scotland keeper is now 35.

Alan Fairley

N.IRELAND

New chief gets a lift

AMBITIOUS Newry Town's new manager, John McDonnell, received a pre-season lift when his team went close to embarrassing Duisburg in the second round of the InterToto Cup.

The Bundesliga side led 2-0 from the first leg at home, but lost 1-0 at Newry Showgrounds and went close to conceding another goal as the part-timers threw everything into attack in the closing minutes.

There was no such glory for Glentoran in the first qualifying round of the Champions League. Bulgarian side Litex Lovech, inspired by Albanian pair Alban Bushaj and Altin Haxhi, were just too slick and won 5-0 on aggregate.

Crusaders have lost two mainstays from the past few seasons – full-back Trevor McMullan, to Linfield, and influential midfielder Liam Dunne, to Portadown. Meanwhile, Coleraine have signed John Devine, Player of the Year and captain of Glentoran, and Ballymena forward Dessie Loughery.

Roy Kitson

WALES

Terry proves too costly

TERRY VENABLES priced himself out of the vacant national team manager's job by demanding £200,000 a year – double what the FAW had on offer. The governing body therefore decided to put international midfielder Mark Hughes in charge for the last two Euro 2000 qualifiers.

Gary Barnett has left his post as manager of Barry Town to join Jan Molby at Kidderminster Harriers, and with influential players Mark Dempsey and Danny Carter also departing, a quick replacement for Barnett is crucial. Assistant manager Richard Jones has taken over temporarily.

Barry's surprise 3-2 defeat by Valletta of Malta in the Champions League first qualifying round will have done nothing to raise morale at the club, which is still up for sale.

Cwmbran Town have signed Brazilian Alain Freitas from Americana and Portuguese youth international Roberto Wilson Silva Dias, formerly of Sporting Lisbon.

With Total Network Solutions about to sign ex-Welsh international Glyn Hodges, and other clubs strengthening their squads, the challenge for Barry's crown will be strong.

Mel Thomas

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Big three will stay at the top

But wannabes are closing the gap, reports Klaas-Jan Droppert

New Ajax ace...Brian Laudrup

HOLLAND

FOR DECADES the Dutch title race has been a three-team battle and there are no prizes for guessing that the championship would go to Ajax, PSV or Feyenoord.

The last time another club won the title was in 1981 when AZ Alkmaar triumphed. But if the big teams are to get some serious competition, it must happen this year. Clubs such as Willem II and Vitesse Arnhem are rapidly closing the gap but are not there yet.

Willem II will have to prove that last year's runners-up position was no fluke.They are heading for a difficult year. The loss of defender Sami Hyypia to Liverpool and the burden of playing Champions League matches does not make things any easier. But in Co Adriaanse they have an experienced coach who knows exactly what his team can do.

Vitesse have been on their way up for years. Last season, they were Feyenoord's main rivals but poor results in the decisive matches prevented them from taking their first championship. Now the club have to overcome some difficulties. Experienced players such as Sander Westerveld and, especially, Nikos Machlas have left the Gelredome and it's up to Pierre Van Hooijdonk and co to deal with the situation.

This means that Holland's top three remain the main title candidates, with champions **Feyenoord**, especially now that they have managed to keep the squad together, in the driving seat. According to coach Leo Beenhakker, his team have not even reached full potential and they hope to do that this year.

The opposition will be tougher, now that **Ajax** and **PSV** have been very active on the transfer market. World-class players (Brian Laudrup and Machlas) and those who learned their skills at Ajax (Winter, Verlaat and Menzo) should bring back the title to Amsterdam.

The sad thing about clubs who do well to finish in mid-table is that they lose their key players to wealthier teams. It has happened to Cup finalists **Fortuna Sittard**, who could not keep Mark Van Bommel and Wilfred Bouma. That means that they, just like **AZ** and **NEC**, probably will fail to earn one of the remaining two UEFA Cup tickets, but none of them should have relegation worries.

Apart from Vitesse and Willem II, **Roda JC**, who just missed out on European football on the final match day last season, are tipped for a UEFA Cup spot. Other candidates are highly-ambitious **Utrecht**, despite Michael Mols' departure to Rangers, and **Heerenveen**.

Things are not looking bright for **Sparta Rotterdam**. They managed, just like **RKC Waalwijk**, to escape relegation by winning their respective play-off group, but the departure of key players and a lack of money could mean the curtain may fall on Sparta for the first time since their formation in 1888. RKC have the potential to avoid the drop, even if they have to go through the play-offs for the fourth consecutive time.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Dorin Mitrita
Heerenveen's right-footed Romanian left-back is a tight marker but loves to go forward. Can be highly effective with his long-range shooting.

Raymond Victoria
Bought by Willem II coach Co Adriaanse last year from De Graafschap and has now succeeded Sami Hyypia as libero.

Mamadou Zongo
Burkina Faso's teenage sensation and probably the most talented of Vitesse's delegation of young African players.

BELGIUM

Scifo blow can't stop Anderlecht

THOSE bookmakers who made **Anderlecht** favourites for the Belgian title refused to budge from their predictions when Enzo Scifo dislocated a shoulder on the first day.

Even without their veteran midfielder, Anderlecht managed a 3-2 win over Mouscron, their first opening-day victory in six seasons. With seven new signings they will be the team to beat.

New coach Aime Anthuenis, fresh from leading Genk to their first title, has reinforced the mauve and whites to promising effect. The most expensive signing is £2million Jan Koller, the Czech whose 24 goals for Lokeren last season made him Belgium's leading scorer.

Jos Heylingen, who has succeeded Anthuenis at champions **Genk**, has strengthened the team by signing Mouscron's Croatian striker Zoran Ban, Swedish midfielder Jesper Janssen from Norwegians Stabaek, and Albanian midfielder Illir Caushllari from Korotan Prevalje.

His new team opened their title defence with a remarkable 6-6 draw at his former club, **Westerlo**, who are now coached by Jan Ceulemans. Tony Brogno's four goals for Westerlo included two penalties, and Branko Strupar's hat-trick for Genk all came from the spot.

The match finished nine aside. Genk had Wilfried Delbroek and Chris Van Geem dismissed, and Westerlo's Marc Schaessens and Benoit Thans walked as well.

Even though **Club Brugge** are no longer coached by Eric Gerets, they cannot be ruled out. Midfielders Philippe Clement and Gaetan Englebert have arrived from Coventry and St Truiden respectively, joined by strikers Jochen Janssen and Sandy Martens from Westerlo and Gent.

Frankie Van der Elst's departure from Brugge to coach newly-amalgamated Germinal Beerschot Antwerp was hardly noticed when his former club began with a 4-0 thumping of St Truiden.

It is high time **Standard Liege** made an impact. Brothers Emile and Mbo Mpenza were both on target in a 2-0 win over promoted **Mechelen**, who may not struggle as much as **Geel**, who accompanied them. Geel's baptism was an embarrassing 5-1 home defeat by Gent.

Harelbeke, undermined by

financial problems, and **Beveren**, who have offloaded the Polish Lewlakow twins, Michel and Marcin, to Mouscron, also may meet difficulties, along with **Lommel**, notwithstanding their 1-0 starting win over Lokeren.

Charleroi, fortunate to escape last time, may be stronger for the arrival of Croatian Luka Perusovic for his third spell as coach. He lost no time revamping his central defence by signing Philippe Albert from Newcastle and Nicholas Jerkan from Rapid Wien.

Nicholas Harling

SWITZERLAND

Hodgson returns

FRONT-PAGE headlines screamed "King Roy is back" as newspapers reported Roy Hodgson's return as coach of champions **Grasshopper**.

Shocks and surprises continued to permeate the most popular Swiss club as new president, Peter Widmer, told a packed media conference: "Roger Hegi has been sacked. He lacked authority. We needed an internationally-renowned football 'guru' as coach, who would give the five-member executive now managing the club the benefit of his experience and expertise. Roy Hodgson was the ideal choice."

Hodgson, 52, is Switzerland's most successful coach, having steered the national team to the 1994 World Cup after a 28-year absence, and to Euro 96, before spells with Inter and Blackburn.

Hegi, 43, in office only from January this year, was doomed when Grasshopper lost the Cup Final 2-0 to Lausanne after yielding the championship to Servette. He is expected to get a £230,000 pay-off.

Another coach to lose his job was Argentinian Enzo Trossero, who was dismissed by **Lugano**'s Italian bosses.

Widmer pulled off more coups for Grasshopper, including the return of star striker Stephane Chapuisat from Borussia Dortmund. He had spent eight years in Germany, scoring 106 goals in 218 matches. 'Chappi' made a dream debut, scoring twice in the 4-0 rout of Neuchatel Xamax.

Widmer also took international midfielder Patrick Muller on loan from Juventus, and transferred temperamental striker Kubilay Turkyilmaz, 32, to Brescia for £460,000. The Italian side have a surplus of non-European Union players, so Turkyilmaz will be farmed out to Lucerne until December.

The top four from last season, **Servette**, **Grasshopper**, **Lausanne** and **Zurich**, are again expected to vie for the championship. Strong challenges could come from **St Gallen**, **Basle** and **Neuchatel Xamax**. **Lucerne**, who managed to give effective guarantees to clear heavy debts, could be in the running for top honours, too. As in previous seasons, the newcomers from the provinces, **Delemont** and **Yverdon**, could find themselves out of their depth.

Ivar von Rulach

Swiss return...Roy Hodgson

REP IRELAND

Here comes Eircom

THE FAI has received important help in its plans to build a new stadium at Citywest on the outskirts of Dublin.

Telecom Eireann, which is soon to change its name to Eircom, will be sponsors and the stadium will be known as Eircom Park. The company will also sponsor the FAI National League for the next four years and will replace Opel as national team sponsors in 2002. The FAI has now secured £48m of the £65m needed to fund construction of the stadium, and will seek a grant from the government.

St Patrick's Athletic were hammered 10-0 on aggregate by Moldova's Zimbru Chisinau in their Champions League qualifier, while Shelbourne were knocked out of the InterToto Cup by Neuchatel Xamax. Shels have signed a three-year 'strategic alliance' with Manchester United and will use the money to finance the next phase of development at Tolka Park.

Cork City have agreed terms with former Irish international midfielder Liam O'Brien.

Sean Creedon

Pro-file Jean-Paul Van Gastel

Leading from the middle and loyal to his club

THERE were more than a few surprised faces when inspirational Feyenoord skipper Jean-Paul Van Gastel reported present and correct for his club's first training session of the season.

Appropriately for someone called Jean-Paul, a move to the Papal city and the ranks of Roma was very much on the agenda this summer. But with the Dutch champions insisting that he respect a contract that does not expire until 2002, negotiations broke down.

Van Gastel might have tried to force the issue but decided against it because of his strong feelings for the club. "If money was the only thing that mattered to me, I would have gone abroad earlier in my career," he said. "I could have gone to court and let the judge decide what Roma had to pay. But I didn't want to, because Feyenoord and their supporters are too precious to me."

What 27-year-old Van Gastel omits to mention is that he is just as highly regarded by the Feyenoord faithful. Not only did he form a solid central defensive trio with Kees Van Wonderen and Bert Konterman last season, but he also tapped into his years of experience as a midfielder. His passing, lethal free-kicks and penalty-taking tilted several matches in Feyenoord's favour en route to the title.

That was Van Gastel's first prize since signing for Feyenoord three years ago. But he has long enjoyed a good reputation in the Dutch game. Before arriving in Rotterdam he starred for six years at Willem II, where one of his team-mates was current Holland and Manchester United stopper Jaap Stam. When Feyenoord began to consider possible replacements for the soon-to-retire Ronald Koeman, it was to Van Gastel that they turned.

Although he broke a leg against PSV early in his Feyenoord career, the versatile Van Gastel has gone on to prove himself a more than worthy successor to Koeman. His distribution is as precise and his dead-ball kicks pack a similar punch, while team-mates respond to his capacity for work.

All the same, despite scoring from a penalty on his debut for Holland in a friendly against Brazil in September 1996, Van Gastel remains anything but a regular at international level.

His performances for Feyenoord on the domestic stage and in the Champions League must come first, however. Van Gastel admits: "It's tough to compete with financial giants like Manchester United and some of the Italian clubs. This team must improve if we are to do well in the Champions League."

Klaas-Jan Droppert

Fact file

Club Feyenoord
Country Holland
Born April 28, 1972, in Breda
Previous clubs Boeimeer, NAC Breda, Willem II
International debut September 1996, v Brazil
International caps 4 (2 goals)
Honours Dutch League 1999

GREECE

Big-spender Socrates

Lou Economopoulos reports on the rush of money into the Greek game

OLYMPIAKOS have put forward the best team money can buy in the hope of winning the Greek title for the third year running.

The club also have serious hopes of going far in the Champions League.

The surge in confidence has come about because the club's owner, telecommunications magnate Socrates Kokkalis, is willing to spend in a big way.

Kokkalis, reputed to be one of the world's richest men, authorised spending £17million on two players – Brazilian international Giovanni, formerly of Barcelona, and Slovenia's Zlatko Zahovic, ex-Porto. Both have signed three-year contracts worth £1m a year.

In addition, Kokkalis put up another £6m so that five of last season's squad could be given long-term contracts.

The deals have caused an upsurge in interest, and thousands of supporters turned up at Athens airport – on different days – to greet the two newcomers. "It's not difficult for a player to agree to join a club with such fantastic fans," said Zahovic.

AEK Athens, who finished 10 points behind Olympiakos last season, have also been spending big money. Dragan Ciric, a Serb forward or midfielder from Barcelona, has signed for five years at £440,000 a year, and Demis Nikolaidis, the top scorer in Greece last season, is now on £300,000 a year.

Both did well in a pre-season tournament promoted by AEK, who won it by beating Leicester City 3-2 and Hertha Berlin 4-2.

Panathinaikos have not made any major signings, but showed up well in the Gotham Cup tournament in the USA, beating Ajax after losing to Fiorentina.

The second-highest scorer last season, Nikos Froussos, hit 18 goals for Ionikos, who finished fifth. All the four clubs above them were interested in Froussos, and he has now signed a four-year deal with fourth-placed **PAOK Thessaloniki**.

Froussos will not be short of support in the northern city: a recent squad practice session there drew a crowd of 8,000!

OFI, hoping to improve on last season's eighth place, also are recruiting ambitiously, and have lured a Brazilian, Mauro da Silva, and a Costa Rican, Rolan Gomez, to Crete.

Ionikos, **Aris Thessaloniki** and **Skoda Xanthi** are again expected to spend the season in mid-table, despite making no major signings over the summer.

The teams that will need to watch out for relegation are **Iraklis**, **Kavala**, **Ethnikos Asteras**, **Proodeftiki**, **Paniliakos**, **Apollon** and **Panionios**, as well as promoted sides **Trikala**, **Panahaiki Patras** and **Kalamata**.

Amid all the excitement before the new season, a sinister note was introduced when Ioannis Spathas, the chairman of the referees' union, was shot twice, suffering leg injuries. The police believe that the assault was a warning, since the assailants apparently could have killed him but chose not to.

High price...Olympiakos's Zlatko Zahovic

TURKEY

Black Sea bombshell

TURKISH soccer's traditional pre-season cup games brought rich promise of things to come – more hooliganism, more violence on the pitch, more incompetent refereeing.

None of the Istanbul clubs look ready for the new season, with Fenerbahce lacking strikers, Besiktas lacking experience and Galatasaray lacking the real Hakan Sukur, who seemed to be sleep-walking in the early games.

Indeed, Black Sea club **Trabzonspor**, now under coach Ahmet Suat Yazycy, may be the best bet for honours.

They made a surprise start when eliminating Italians Perugia from the InterToto Cup. They were 4-3 up on aggregate when the referee abandoned the second leg, away, after crowd violence. Trabzon were duly awarded the match 3-0.

They then drew 2-2 at home with Hamburg in the semi-final, before going down 4-1 in the return. Hami Mandirali scored both goals in the first leg to take his total in European games to 22.

Galatasaray made a good start by winning the Turkish Sports Writers Cup, beating Besiktas 1-0 with a goal by Hakan Unsal. Gala have kept all last season's players and brought in three from Istanbulspor – Saffet Akyuz, Ahmet Yyldyrym and Mehmet Yozgatly.

Besiktas are likely to miss Alpay Ozalan, now at Fenerbahce, and have coaching problems. German Karl-Heinz Feldkamp, appointed late last season, is now 64 and has been advised not to coach after a medical check in the summer. Assistant Hans-Peter Briegel is in day-to-day charge of the team, with Feldkamp keeping in touch by phone from Germany.

As ever, **Fenerbahce** have been the most active club in the transfer market over the summer. As well as Alpay, they have signed Ghanaians Johnson and Preko (Gaziantepspor), plus Trabzonspor duo Abdullah Ercan and Ogun Temizkanoglu. The £10million Fenerbahce received from Real Madrid for Elvir Baljic enabled them to pay off their debts, but left a large gap up front.

That lack of fire-power is one of coach Ridvan Dilman's biggest headaches at the moment.

The other top-flight clubs are still minnows. **Kocaelispor** have reached a plateau and can go no higher, while **Bursaspor** failed to hit the heights last year and look unlikely to do any better this term.

Instead, this season's dark horses may be newly-promoted **Goztepe**, from Izmir, who have strong financial backing and a large fan base.

Antalyaspor, under new coach Abramczik, have signed Gaudino from Bochum, Hasan from Energie Cottbus and Erkan from Winterthur. With the outstanding Bulgarian defender Guintchev, they could spring a surprise.

Genclerbirligi continue to sell players for a big profit, notably receiving £3.5m from Real Madrid for Cameroonian Geremi Ndjitap. Arriving at the club were Ngobe from Orlando Pirates and Yalcyn from Linz ASK.

Gaziantepspor, who made a £5m profit on the sale of Johnson and Preko to Fenerbahce, and UEFA Cup entrants **Ankaragucu** are unlikely to challenge for honours.

Hasan Cemali

PORTUGAL

Schmeichel is the major attraction

THE NEWCOMER to Portugal who has caused the biggest stir is Peter Schmeichel. He arrived to play for **Sporting Lisbon** weighed down by the medals won over the past 15 years, but even without all the gold and silver, Schmeichel is still a big boy, and will have to get rid of quite a few kilos before the season starts.

Nevertheless, Sporting fans have taken to him in a big way, with up to 6,000 turning up to training sessions.

Other incomers at Sporting include the Italian coach, Giuseppe Materazzi, Ayew (see profile, page 75), Tonito, Hanuch and Robaine.

Delfim and Edmilson are likely to catch the eye, but a lot will depend on Schmeichel. Will he be capable of meeting the challenge?

Porto, looking for a sixth straight League title, will still rely heavily on Brazilian striker Jardel. Drulovic and Capucho head the list of other top players in the squad.

No close season would be complete without controversy at **Benfica**. Sigurd Rushfeldt arrived from Rosenborg, but was promptly summoned back to Trondheim when the full transfer fee was not forthcoming. The case was duly referred to FIFA.

There were problems, too, with Hugo Leal's projected move to Atletico Madrid. Benfica want money for him; Atletico insist he should go free. FIFA say he must remain at Benfica until at least the end of the new season.

The top two start the new season in opposition, with **Boavista**, surprise runners-up last May, at home to Porto, who may give the fine goalkeeper William a lot to do.

Other players to look for include Andrade, Maniche and Poborsky at Benfica; goalkeeper Maki, Tabuas and Chiquinho at **Setubal**; Fernando Meria, Jairson and Mendes at **Guimaraes**; Renato and Claudio at **Maritimo**; Silva of **Braga**; Lim, Lila and Tuck at **Gil Vicente**; Rebelo and Serginho at **Estrela Amadora**; **Rio Ave**'s Lima Paraira; Gouveia at **Belenenses**; Nuno Camos at **Farense**; and Candido Costa at **Salgueiros**.

And do not be surprised if Manual Cajuda of Braga is manager of the season!

Alberto da Silva

AUSTRIA

Savicevic leads from the front

THE early start to the season meant plenty of football for national coach Otto Baric to watch before picking his squad for the vital home tie against Spain in the Euro 2000 qualifiers.

Baric's predecessor, the much-respected Herbert Prohaska, has had varying degrees of success since taking over at **Austria Wien**. Two wins at the start of the League programme were followed by InterToto Cup failure and a heavy loss to the old foe, **Rapid Wien**.

The 218th Vienna derby proved to be the 100th victory for the Greens. Serb Dejan Savicevic opened the scoring with a fine individual effort, and headed in the second after a blunder by keeper Wolfgang Knaller. Wagner made it three for Rapid four minutes from time.

Apart from the two Viennese giants, only **Sturm Graz** and, possibly, **FC Tirol** could be likely title challengers. Sturm's 5-0 defeat of local rivals **Grazer AK** has been accompanied by some inconsistency, while the Tiroleans under Kurt Jara may not have the depth of squad to mount a challenge. There is a long way to go but bets might best be put on resurgent Rapid, with Savicevic at the front.

Bob Vaughan

Focus of attention...Sporting Lisbon's Peter Schmeichel

Pro-file Robert Enke

Young German galloping to goalkeeping glory

TAKING your time seems to be an alien concept for German goalkeeping starlet Robert Enke.

He made his Bundesliga debut for Borussia Monchengladbach little over a year ago, but ever since then he has sped past one career milestone after another: a regular first-team spot, Under-21 recognition, a transfer to Benfica and, to cap it all, a place in the German party that took part in the Confederations Cup.

"Sometimes it's hard to take in everything that has happened to me," admits Enke, who is still only 21. "Although I have confidence in my ability, I certainly didn't expect all this. At the moment, everyone seems to want to say nice things about me. But I know the situation will soon change if my attitude becomes sloppy.

"Of course I'm proud to have been called up to the national squad. But I still have much to learn and at the moment it's not realistic to put me in the same bracket as national team keepers Oliver Kahn and Jens Lehmann. I also know there are many other good keepers with strong claims to be selected for Germany.

"As for Benfica, it's a tremendously exciting challenge. It was a dream of mine to play abroad, and Benfica are one of the biggest clubs in Europe, a real institution."

After signing for Borussia Monchengladbach from Carl Zeiss Jena in the summer of 1996, Enke's first two years at the club were exclusively spent as first-team understudy. His big break came shortly before the start of last season, when number one keeper, Uwe Kamps, ruptured an Achilles tendon.

In terms of results, Enke's first season in the Bundesliga was a disaster. Gladbach were relegated and no other keeper in the division let in more goals than his 79. But without his remarkable reflexes and bravery, Gladbach's porous back line would have conceded many more. So it was just reward when German pros voted him one of the top four revelations of the season.

With Enke's contract running out in May, leaving him free to move for nothing under the Bosman ruling, the keeper was courted by a number of clubs from the Bundesliga, Italy, Spain and Portugal, with Benfica finally winning the day.

"Some might think I will get preferential treatment at Benfica because coach Jupp Heynckes is German and a former Gladbach player," he says. "But that will not be the case. There's also a good Argentinian keeper here [Carlos Bossio] and I will have to compete with him to be in the starting line-up. Whoever is in the best form will play."

So go to Lisbon to see the old and the new in the art of goalkeeping – Peter Schmeichel at Sporting, Robert Enke at Benfica.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Benfica (Por)
Country Germany
Born August 24, 1977, in Jena
Previous clubs SU Jena Pharm, Carl Zeiss Jena, Borussia Monchengladbach

Unlucky Pettersson is forced to quit

SWEDEN

SOON AFTER former Sweden striker Martin Dahlin announced his retirement, IFK Gothenburg's Stefan Pettersson was forced to quit the game due to a persistent knee injury.

Pettersson was a UEFA Cup winner with IFK in 1987 and with Ajax Amsterdam in 1992, scoring in both Finals. But although he was generally regarded as one of the finest Swedish forwards of his generation, somehow he was never a regular in the national team, collecting only 31 caps.

Stefan Lindqvist, another victim of a long-term injury, also has retired. Lindqvist, a mainstay in IFK's midfield in the early 1990s, recently had spells playing in China, Scotland and Norway.

The irrepressible Thomas Ravelli is back at IFK, taking over as the second-choice keeper from Dick Last.

Spare a thought for Helsingborgs' Norwegian winger, Kenneth Storvik. He signed a new contract with the club – resisting an offer from Rosenborg – only to break a leg on the following day. He will miss the rest of the season.

Struggling Elfsborg and Djurgardens have parted with their coaches, Kalle Bjorklund and Michael Andersson respectively.

Pentti Hietanen

Retirement...Pettersson

DENMARK

Jensen's shock for the champions

FORMER Arsenal, Brondby and Denmark midfielder John Jensen had a winning start to his new life as player-coach of village club Herfolge – a 3-1 defeat of the champions, AaB Aalborg.

Tommy Schram scored twice to give Herfolge the momentum they needed, and Jensen played himself as sub for the last 15 minutes.

"I've tried to incorporate the best elements of all the coaches I played under, from George Graham to Sepp Piontek," he said. "I was learning all the time, taking the best aspects and disregarding the worst."

For AaB it was a nightmare start to their title defence. And the draw for the Champions League qualifiers – against Kyiv Dinamo – was little consolation, either.

Morten Olsen remains strong favourite to take over from Bo Johansson as national team coach, Roy Hodgson having put himself out of the race by going to Grasshopper in Switzerland.

Jan Poulsen, coach of the Under-21s, is to become technical adviser to the Singapore FA.

Jim Holden

FINLAND

Lucky 21 for Rafael

BRAZILIAN forward Rafael made a splendid return to HJK Helsinki by scoring a hat-trick in his first match – against his former club FC Jazz.

The game was on his 21st birthday, he wore number 21, and scored his first goal in the 21st minute. Rafael was Finland's top scorer with HJK in 1997, but then moved to FC Jazz.

HJK also have signed Under-21 forward Toni Kallio from TPV Tampere. TPV have been busy trying players from all over Europe, but still cannot find the right combination, and look certain to go down.

Pentti Hietanen

NORWAY

Great days are back for Lillestrom

A COUPLE of seasons ago Lillestrom ran into deep financial waters and were forced to sell their best players to survive. Lack of success on the field also led to the departure of managers and other key administrative personnel.

Inexperienced assistant coach Arne Erlandsen was promoted and former international Hallvard Thoresen was brought in to help. The new partnership managed to stop the rot and stabilise the team, albeit on very limited resources.

Last season Lillestrom managed to impress for shorter periods but finally had to settle for eighth place. This time, however, the youngsters have taken a leap forward and are lying second, challenging Rosenborg for top spot.

Erlandsen brought in some hungry footballers from Iceland for relatively small sums. Runar Kristinson and Heidar Helguson added sparkle and bite and have developed tremendously. Kristinson has been a revelation in midfield and clubs from all over Europe have been to see him.

Helguson is a tough tackler who gives everything and is shunned by players of other clubs as a result. "I can live with the moaning from other players," he says. "For me, winning is the all-important thing and this is how I play."

Molde finally managed to fulfil part of their European aspirations when they beat CSKA Moscow in the second qualifying round of the Champions League. A 2-0 defeat in the first leg in Moscow did not give them the ideal starting point for the return match, and a goalless first half at home certainly did not give them much chance of progressing.

In a scintillating second half, however, the Molde players were firing on all cylinders. Player-of-the-match Magne Hoseth was magnificent, scoring two of Molde's four goals to secure a 4-2 aggregate win.

Sigurd Odegaard

ICELAND

Tension rises for KR

AS THE season enters its second phase, the battle for the title is shaping into a two-horse race, with KR heading the table ahead of reigning champions IBV.

As the KR players bid to rid their club of 'the monkey on its back' – which has now grown to the proportions of King Kong – there were signs that the pressure of waiting to see their favourites end a 31-year championship famine could be getting to some of their supporters.

As KR fought a scrappy 1-1 home draw against fourth-placed Leiftur, news came through of IBV's 2-0 home defeat by MTK Budapest in the first leg of their Champions League second qualifying round tie, which led to bursts of cheering from some sections of the home crowd.

But if things are tense for the leaders, the top division's remaining eight clubs could soon find themselves facing pressure of a rather different kind. Only three points separate the teams in third and ninth places.

Rab Christie

Target...Runar Kristinson has been watched by a host of clubs

LIECHTENSTEIN

Wegmann takes over

FC VADUZ began the new season with a new player-manager. Jurgen Wegmann arrives after a successful spell in Switzerland with Lugano.

Wegmann, a former Bundesliga player, is now preparing his team for their UEFA Cup tie against Norwegian side Bodo/Glimt.

The domestic season will only just be under way before the national side take on Hungary on September 4 in a Euro 2000 qualifier in Vaduz. They will be hoping for a measure of revenge after that 5-0 defeat last March.

Graeme Crawford

CROATIA

Summer of scandals

THERE was a stormy summer in Croatia, with lots of scandals – the sort football does not need.

First, national team coach Miroslav Blazevic joined in the debate about fixed matches in the championship and perceived favouritism shown towards Croatia Zagreb by describing the allegations as "a bunch of lies". He added that the people who made the allegations "should be beaten to death".

This in turn led to charges of threatening behaviour being brought against Blazevic by the Croatian Journalists Association and the editor of the weekly Nacional magazine.

Croatian international Igor Stimac (with Derby County for the past couple of seasons) made the front pages because of a row with a well-known singer, Alka Vuica.

She was in a nightclub owned by Stimac, and sent a bottle of champagne to the table where he was sitting with his wife, Suzana, a former Miss Yugoslavia. Stimac refused to take it, so Alka spilled her glass over him. The papers had a high old time with this – especially when reporters discovered that the pair had been involved in an affair.

Stimac, who has three sons, is no stranger to headlines concerning women. For years he has been voted 'Sexiest sportsman in Croatia' and he has been compared with actor Richard Gere.

Ivica Surjak, who used to be one of the most popular players in Yugoslavia, was involved in a tragedy recently when the speedboat he was driving hit a swimmer, who died later in hospital. The victim was a veteran of the war in Bosnia and had gone to the seaside as a part of his rehabilitation. Surjak has been confined to his house in a state of shock.

Davor Suker was expected to sign for New York/New Jersey MetroStars before he joined Arsenal. He had been training on his own in Zagreb, in the hope of playing in the international against Yugoslavia in Belgrade on August 18.

The new season began with Croatia Zagreb coach Osvaldo Ardiles raising the eyebrows of football experts by his decision to play young midfielder Igor Biscan in attack.

Over the summer, Roma had been ready to pay £4million for the player.

Zdravko Reic

Nightclub incident...Croatia defender Igor Stimac

ISRAEL

Maccabi pay for drugs offences

TWO big events dominated the build-up to the revamped 1999-00 season.

The first was the punishment meted out to Maccabi Tel Aviv following a doping scandal last season. The second was Hapoel Tel Aviv's success against Besiktas in the Champions League qualifiers.

Maccabi will start the season in the new Premier League with a points total of minus four, after the club's former fitness trainer Guy Azuri was found to have administered a banned substance to some players.

Azuri was banned for two years, and the player who tested positive for ephedrine, Kfir Edri, was suspended for six games.

Hapoel Haifa, for many years the poor relation of the northern port, experienced surprising success in their very first European match. Away to Besiktas in Istanbul, they became the first Israeli team ever to avoid defeat in Turkey, and the away goal they scored in a 1-1 draw proved vital.

Hapoel played poorly in the return but managed to draw again, this time 0-0, which was enough to see them through to the final qualifying round, against Valencia.

The new domestic season began on August 14, with the 14 Premier clubs set to play 39 games each. The League will be reduced to 12 teams in 2000-01.

Ori Lewis

MACEDONIA

The last days of the Zingo dynasty?

THE DYNASTY of the 'Tzar from Kratovo' – Ljubisav Ivanov, president of the Macedonian FA – seems to be ending the same way it existed, with political pressure.

The left-oriented Ivanov (he is president of the Socialist party) is under fire from all sides because of the alleged tax evasion of his favourite club, Sileks.

Ivanov is into mines, hotels, banks and shopping centres as well as football, with confusion arising over which money belongs to the FA and which belongs to Sileks.

Ivanov, nicknamed Zingo, feels that he might lose his position, and has appealed for help from UEFA president Lennart Johansson, who was supported by the Macedonian FA during his campaign for the FIFA presidency.

There is another row over the youngster Ilir Elmazovski, who played for the Under-21s against the Republic of Ireland when over-age. Macedonia drew 0-0, but have now had to forfeit the point.

Michel Stojmanovski

ALBANIA

FK off to a poor start

CHAMPIONS FK Tirana began the new season with a costly double defeat, losing 1-0 and 2-1 to IBV of Iceland in the Champions League preliminaries. FK were without three regular forwards, Merkoci, Muka and Zeqo, all of whom had left the club at short notice. The club will do well to recover from such a shock.

Meanwhile, SK Dinamo's chief executive Besnik Sulaj has plenty of reason for confidence. He is one of the most powerful businessmen in the Albanian petrol market, and as such can afford fees for top home-grown players. SK have signed six full or Under-23 internationals during the close season, and not surprisingly are favourites for the championship.

Gezim Nushi

YUGOSLAVIA

Police fire to control crowd

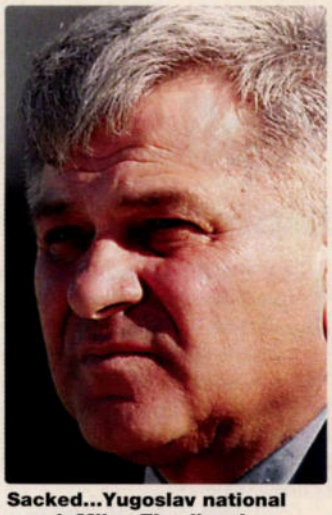
THE NEW season began with dreadful scenes, as rioting fans forced police to fire shots to bring the situation under control.

There were two pitch invasions during the 2-2 draw between Borac and Red Star Belgrade, which was also punctuated by brawls between fans.

This was a terrible disappointment to Borac, a small club from Cacak, about 50 kilometres south of Belgrade, who were playing their first-ever match in the First Division.

The FA ordered that Red Star must play their next two home games behind closed doors.

These were the ugliest scenes in a Yugoslav stadium since the the high-tension matches in Zagreb (Dinamo v Red Star) and Split (Hajduk v Partizan) back in 1989-90.



Sacked...Yugoslav national coach Milan Zivadinovic

There was another sensation when – with the long-awaited Euro 2000 qualifier against Croatia on August 18 drawing ever closer – the FA sacked national coach Milan Zivadinovic.

Not without reason. While on holiday, he asked for permission to sign a contract with the Al Nasr club of Saudi Arabia, with the hope that he could keep an option to remain with the national team until the end of the qualifying campaign before taking up his new job.

The FA, not surprisingly, rejected the request, showed 'Ziva' the door, and replaced him with Vujadin Boskov, one of the most successful Yugoslav coaches of all time, but now 68 years old. After Euro 2000, the national team will get a new coach.

Vladimir Novak

Exciting times...Teplice striker Radek Divecky

CZECH REP

Teplice join the stars

North Bohemians enter the Champions League

LAST SEASON was one for optimism, with the national team the first to qualify for Euro 2000, and two club sides with quite different histories and different financial resources vying for the title.

It went to Sparta for the 24th time while the north Bohemians, FC Teplice, were left to wonder what might have been as they reached their best-ever position in any League season. Runners-up spot meant the greatest match of the 44-year history of soccer in the town since it was reorganised after the war: a Champions League qualifying match against Borussia Dortmund.

Coach Josef Pescie will again be using a 1-2-5-2 system in the League and Europe, with Marian Rizek as the classic libero. He was unfortunately unavailable for the tie with Dortmund – they lost the first leg 1-0 – for which Ales Pikl deputised.

Teplice will not quite be the team of no stars in the future, especially with the highly effective Pavel Verbir and promising Radek Divecky up front. Hanging on to them may be the problem at the recently-revamped Stadion na Stinadlech, which roughly translates as the Place of Execution!

Slavia remain in the doldrums after losing the Cup Final in extra time to Liberec and being unable to complete the redevelopment of their stadium.

Olomouc and Ostrava might mount a challenge but Sparta, with a big, powerful squad, and Teplice, with their dangerous strikeforce, look unlikely to be knocked from the top two spots.

Bob Vaughan

RUSSIA

'Killer' refs under fire

REFEREE Sergei Anokhin had to be replaced by a linesman due to 'a heart problem' after the first half of Alaniya-Rotor game in Vladikavkaz.

Georgi Savchuk, who took his place, disallowed a Rotor goal and immediately awarded a penalty to Alaniya, after which the visiting team walked off the pitch, never to return. Rotor's protest cost them three points and £1,300.

Although many of Savchuk's calls were shown to be wrong, he was not punished. Neither was local reserve referee Eduard Begisov, who replaced Savchuk as a linesman.

Rotor's walkout, unprecedented in the history of Russian football, took place amid strong criticism of referees.

Manager Victor Prokopenko said that his team's desperate move was intended to draw public attention to "referees' rampage". Every Russian coach talks about 'killer referees' these days, hinting at huge bribes, but never forgetting to note that his own team are clean.

Talk of honesty and fair play has not led to any new developments. Many think the only solution is to give the League's referees professional status and drastically increase their earnings. Today, the League allocates £400 per game, which has to cover travel and costs, leaving a referee with about £60.

We do not know what happened in the referee's room in Vladikavkaz at half-time (Rotor were leading 1-0), but 'heart patient' Anokhin was seen chain-smoking in a Moscow airport the next morning. And so another Russian football mystery is born.

Victor Gusev

BULGARIA

Season starts late as Metalurg go down

ELSEWHERE in Central and Eastern Europe efforts were made to bring forward the start of the season, but Bulgaria's kick-off was delayed.

For reasons that are not quite clear, the fixtures were late in being published, and clubs did not quite know where they were, to put it mildly.

One club who do know where they are are Metalurg Pernik, who finished 10th last season but are now consigned to the Second Division because of match-fixing. The Football Union stated that Metalurg did not play to win their home games against Levski Sofia and Litex Lovech last season. The governing body also deducted three points from last term's tallies of the opponents concerned, though this did not affect the final standings.

As a consequence of Metalurg's demotion, Shumen, who were due to be relegated, will continue in the top flight.

Title-holders Litex Lovech were surprisingly knocked out of the Champions League in the second qualifying round despite a convincing 4-1 first leg win over Widzew Lodz. The team, now known just as Lovech, collapsed in the return, and the Polish side eventually took the tie on penalties.

The champions now have to concentrate on winning the League title for the third year running.

The chances of such a treble must be slim. Once again the club will be up against the concerted efforts of the powerhouse capital city sides, Levski, CSKA and Lok. Slavia also will be expected to mount a challenge.

UEFA Cup representatives Levski and CSKA will not be joined in the competition by Spartak Varna, who were knocked out of the InterToto Cup by Belgian side St Truiden. Now the club will be concentrating on improving on the 12th-place League finish achieved last season.

Anything as high as that will be a major success for promoted sides Chernomorets Bourgas, Belasitsa Petritch and Olimpic Teteven. The latter merged with Fourth Division Beroe of Stara Zagora over the summer and are now known as Olimpic-Beroe. Another name change saw Levski Kjustendil become known as Velbazhd.

Bob Vaughan

New coach at Legia Warsaw...Dariusz Kubicki

POLAND

Wisla cable a message to the rest

WISLA KRAKOW, the defending champions, led the table with maximum points after three rounds of the new season. They are favourites to get a second successive title.

Last year Wisla reinforced the squad thanks to the support of a new sponsor, a cable factory, and a team with nine international players were too strong for the rest.

Ironically, however, Wisla could not play in the Champions League. A knife-throwing incident during the home UEFA Cup game with Parma last October led to a one-year European ban. They were replaced by last season's runners-up, Widzew Lodz – who dismissed coach Marek Dziuba after only one League game of the new season.

Grzegorz Lato, the former Polish international and top scorer of World Cup 74, took over and steered Widzew past Bulgaria's Litex Lovech to reach the Champions League third qualifying round, against Fiorentina. They lost the first leg 3-1 away.

Legia Warsaw, who face Macedonia's Vardar Skopje in the UEFA Cup, have a new coach – Dariusz Kubicki, who spent eight years playing in England.

Polonia reached the semi-finals of the InterToto Cup by beating Tiligul Tiraspol, FC Copenhagen and Vasas Budapest, but then lost to Metz.

League newcomers Petro Plock have great plans, with officials claiming that their team "should be among the top six" next year. Petro is the name of the team sponsor – the country's biggest petrol company. The club bought 10 players during the summer break, but coach Jerzy Kasalik is more realistic: "I haven't a strong team yet, and expectations are much too optimistic," he said.

Dariusz Kurowski

HUNGARY

Decision time nears

UEFA will decide in October whether to award hosting rights for the 2004 European Championship to the Austro-Hungarian bid or to the Iberian Peninsula (Spain or Portugal).

The Austrians seem to be having to bear the brunt of the public relations responsibilities and progress on developing the stadia in Gyor, Debrecen and Szekesfehervar does not seem to be too speedy.

A new Debrecen Prater, holding 30,000, is due to be constructed and will be named Nagyerdei stadion.

It will be a pity if the opportunity is missed in Central Europe but the chances of the Austro-Hungarian bid being successful is no more than 50-50.

On the field, champions MTK comfortably negotiated the not-too-difficult hurdle of a Champions League second qualifying round tie against IBV of Iceland. They won 5-1 on aggregate and held Croatia Zagreb to a 0-0 draw in the first leg of the next round.

Bob Vaughan

ROMANIA

Rapid suffer from Riga mortis

IT IS TOO soon to say that the season is over, but for Rapid, the champions, their shock defeat by Skonto Riga in the Champions League second qualifying round was a severe blow.

At least there is the consolation of joining rivals Steaua and Dinamo in the UEFA Cup but it is not quite the same!

Dinamo set the pace in the League, which started untypically early, with a 5-0 home victory over Gloria.

Bob Vaughan

SLOVAKIA

Slovan waste a chance to cash in

ONLY two clubs realistically can envisage taking the title: Slovan and Spartak Trnava. The former re-established themselves on and off the field last term but a horror overtook them in the Champions League qualifiers.

A goal deficit against Anorthosis Famagusta did not unduly worry coach Stanislav Griga, who has built up a competent team with a reliable keeper in Koening, a reliable back four with internationals Timko and Varga at its heart, and an impressive schemer, Tomaschek.

However, forwards Majoros and Jancula could not take their chances when the Cypriots went to Bratislava, and a draw meant 'merely' UEFA Cup football for Slovan.

Even so, they look a good bet for title number five. FC Kosice are without resources, there is going to be a desperate struggle to keep out of the seven relegation spots, and the League as a whole will do well to get through to late May anywhere near solvent.

Bob Vaughan

Pro-file Vratislav Lokvenc

Big guy with a lot going for him

CZECH fans call Vratislav Lokvenc 'Extra, extra large' – to distinguish him from 'Extra, extra, extra large', the even taller Jan Koller.

They operate in relays for the national team. Subbing Koller for Lokvenc late in the game is one of coach Jozef Chovanec's favourite tactics, as Scotland found to their cost in the Euro 2000 qualifier in June. But Sparta's Lokvenc remains Chovanec's choice to start.

Lokvenc's height – 6ft 5in – and his body strength make him a nuisance to the toughest defences. So does a delicate left-foot touch, which belies his size. At 25, he's at the peak of his game.

Antonin Panenka, one of the Czechs' 1976 European Championship winners, gained 59 caps for his country. He is now with Sparta's city rivals Bohemians and says of Lokvenc: "He's the best forward in the Czech League. Of course he's very strong in the air. He's also a good technical player, an excellent target man, clever at shielding the ball – and he makes chances for others."

Lokvenc, Hornak and another Sparta colleague, Martin Hasek, are rare home-based players in the Czech line-up. Probably for one more season only in Lokvenc's case. His Sparta contract expires next summer. That will be a blow to Sparta. Lokvenc's partnership with Horst Siegl has been crucial to the club's recent success – last season saw the club make it three titles in a row, with Siegl claiming 17 goals and Lokvenc 10. "He has made a lot of 'assists' for me, too," says Siegl.

Lokvenc, born in the Bohemian town of Hradec Kralove, joined the local club as a 13-year-old. Two months into the 1994-95 season he was signed by Sparta.

In build, at least, Lokvenc follows in the tradition of another Sparta striker, Tomas Skuhravy. So it was somehow appropriate that Lokvenc made his international debut as a sub for Skuhravy against Norway in the Euro 96 qualifying campaign.

But he was omitted from the squad that played in the finals of that tournament, and in all he spent more than a year out of international football. Now he is an integral part of Chovanec's plans.

"Having forwards like Lokvenc and Koller gives us one more dimension," says the coach. "We have so many variations in attack."

Indeed. Pavel Nedved, Patrik Berger and Karel Poborsky remain from the side Dusan Uhrin took to Euro 96. Pavel Kuka, mobile, skilful and vastly experienced, offers another option. Koller waits to spring off the bench.

Then there's Lokvenc...

Kevin Connolly

Fact file

Club Sparta Prague
Country Czech Rep
Born September 17, 1973
Previous club Hradec Kralove
International debut September 1995, v Norway
International caps 21 (3 gls)
Honours Czech League 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999; Czech Cup 1996

Chilavert was right

Paraguay was the wrong venue for the Copa, says Eric Weil

Star newcomer...Ronaldinho

PARAGUAY

THE 38th South American Championship provided some surprises, but Brazil's eventual victory was not one of them. Rarely had a team arrived at the tournament as such clear favourites, especially after Argentina left out most of their Europe-based World Cup players.

Brazil won all their six games, but did not play the 'jogo bonito' type of soccer generally associated with them. They applied close marking – in the past it used to be 'play and let play' – and fouled to stop rivals, especially in midfield, but their Ronaldo-Amoroso attack duo was a handful for all defences, with Rivaldo outstanding behind them.

New coach Wanderley Luxemburgo outlined his methods in five words – discipline, unity, hard work, professionalism – and said nothing about good soccer. Brazil, like all teams, had their weak points, but no team in Paraguay could exploit this.

Losing finalists Uruguay were the biggest surprise, since coach Victor Pua took what was virtually a B team to the tournament. With many debutants, Uruguay showed enthusiasm and skill coupled with their famed fighting spirit, which augurs well for the future, but they had a certain amount of luck.

Paraguay, looked upon as possible winners, given their home advantage and experienced players, came through what looked like the easiest of the three first-round groups and were then Uruguay's penalty victims. There's no excuse, except that penalty shoot-outs are not the best way to decide tournaments and at the time most of Paraguay's team were victims of a flu epidemic.

There was an unusual amount of rain in the country and a number of matches were played under a heavy downpour.

Worst of all for Paraguay, they sorely missed their goalkeeper-captain, Jose Luis Chilavert, especially in the shoot-out against Uruguay, in which Ricardo Tavarelli never went close to saving a single shot.

Chilavert decided not to play when an army general, implicated in revolution and assassination, was put in charge of the organising committee. He refused to change his mind even when the general had to flee the country.

Now, however, Chilavert has decided to play in next year's World Cup qualifiers.The national coach, Ever Almeida, has been sacked.

Argentina did not have their best team out, for various reasons, some obscure, and coach Marcelo Bielsa lined up the backbone of national champions Boca Juniors. However, these players – especially strikers Martin Palermo and Guillermo Barros Schelotto – found the transition from domestic soccer to international level rather difficult.

Colombia played good soccer, with some newcomers – not the least among them 16-year-old Jhonnier Montano (see Libero, page 8) – showing that the country has found replacements for ageing Carlos Valderrama and co. The team's 3-0 victory over Argentina to win their group was deserved, despite Palermo's three missed penalties. Elimination by Chile, who had not played particularly well until then, was a real surprise.

The same could not be said for Bolivia and Ecuador, who relied chiefly on their veterans. The latter's young scoring sensation, Ivan Kaviedes, had few chances (although he scored two goals).

Chile's feared duo, Ivan Zamorano and Marcelo Salas, did not live up to expectations. Zamorano scored three goals, but Salas had a tournament to forget. He failed to score, was sent off and suspended for two games, and on his return missed a vital penalty in the shoot-out against Uruguay.

Peru looked good and might have reached the semi-finals, but surprisingly failed to hold a 2-0 lead against Mexico in the quarter-finals.

Venezuela, traditional losers, were expected to do better this time after a string of good results in pre-tournament matches.

As for the guest teams, Mexico took third place for the second time running and showed that they are maintaining a high level of soccer, while Japan, who came to get experience against leading teams, left early after defeats by Peru and Paraguay and a draw with Bolivia.

Japan wanted to stage the next Copa America – but according to a pre-arranged schedule it is Colombia's turn in 2001, and they were confirmed as hosts by CONMEBOL.

The outstanding players of this tournament were Brazil's Rivaldo and Ronaldo (joint top scorers with five goals each) and goalkeepers Dida (Brazil) and Carini (Uruguay). Ronaldinho (Ronaldo Assis) was an outstanding newcomer.

Apart from shoot-outs, it was a tournament of missed penalties. Of 11 awarded in regulation time, only four went into the net.

The big scandal during the tournament was the sale of so many tickets by touts, at varying prices according to the importance of the match. At the same time, tickets often could not be obtained at stadiums, although they were then not full during games.

The Paraguayan government was going to ask the FA to investigate – apparently it appeared somebody high up was doing good business – until it was pointed out that government intervention could result in the FA losing its FIFA affiliation.

Midway through the tournament the ticket prices were increased by 60 per cent to offset the devaluation of the local currency, the *guarani*.

The two grounds newly built for the tournament were not quite completed and in view of the country's poor economic situation may now be left unfinished. Paraguay could hardly spare the money to build them, and as Chilavert said all along, the country was in no position to stage the tournament and the money should have been better spent on health and education.

On top of that, few visiting supporters stayed in Paraguay to spend much-needed foreign currency. Fans from neighbouring countries Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, who made up the majority of visitors, merely came and went for matches.

A row blew up between FIFA and CONMEBOL over the six-month suspensions of two Mexicans – Raul Rodrigo Lara and Paulo Cesar Chavez – who had positive drug tests during the Copa. FIFA said it would not uphold the suspensions because the laboratory in Paraguay, where the tests were carried out, was not officially recognised by either FIFA or the IOC.

CONMEBOL, however, decided to maintain the suspensions for tournaments under its jurisdiction and even discussed the possibility of not inviting Mexico to future Copa America tournaments.

Five card trick...players like Marcelinho Carioca can cash in

Play dirty and draw the crowds

Brian Homewood on the weird logic behind a new rule

BRAZIL

BRAZILIAN football averages around 50 fouls a match, probably the highest in the world, but the CBF thinks this is not enough and has taken energetic action to make games even dirtier.

President Ricardo Teixeira and his crew have decreed that for this year's Brazilian championship, players will have to accumulate five rather than three yellow cards before being suspended. Music to the ears of the likes of Cleber and Junior Baiano (Palmeiras), Marcelinho Carioca (Corinthians) and other hatchet men too numerous to mention.

The perverse logic behind the new ruling is that matches lose their appeal when top players are suspended. On the other hand, the prospect of seeing highly-paid professionals kick each other off the pitch and get away with it will bring the punters rolling in.

For a long time, Brazilian domestic football has been among the most cynical in the world. Uniquely, it embraces the concept of the 'normal foul'. This consists of a slight trip or nudge or pull of the shirt to stop an opponent from doing anything creative. Brazilian coaches do not see 'normal fouls' as bookable offences; rather, they look on them as a legitimate way of keeping their goal intact.

Touchline microphones and cameras have caught several managers ordering their team to kick their opponents, and Palmeiras manager Luiz Felipe Scolari, or Big Phil (Felipao) as he is best known, openly admits to reprimanding players when they do not commit enough fouls. Big Phil says his fellow managers do the same but will not own up to it. "I'm stupid because I tell the truth while the others lie," he once said.

Forwards are hardly blameless either, as they tend to go tumbling over at the faintest of touches. A puff of wind is enough to send players such as Paulo Nunes (Palmeiras) tumbling over and writhing around in apparent agony.

FIFA's directives to referees to clamp down on sliding tackles and play-acting are routinely ignored. Officials know that they are being closely watched by Brazilian club directors, who can often veto referees they think have caused their team to lose a match, and will not be seen at all by anyone in Zurich.

Tactics used by referees to avoid upsetting clubs include only showing yellow cards after half-time, reducing the likelihood they will have to send somebody off; only sending off players in pairs, one from each team; and not showing yellow cards for diving or time-wasting. All this can turn watching Brazilian football into a form of slow torture.

Every time a promising move develops, an outstretched leg or arm appears from nowhere and down goes the man on the ball.

Tostao, one of the 1970 World Cup heroes, said recently in his newspaper column that Brazilian football was the most violent in the world. "Players and coaches disrespect each other on the field while referees and their assistants are under enormous pressure," he said.

Until now, the national team has been happily free of this systematic fouling, but it was clear during the Copa America that coach Wanderley Luxemburgo is now phasing it in at the highest level. Emerson Ferreira, Luxemburgo's No 1 midfield destroyer, was groomed by Big Phil in Gremio's notorious Libertadores Cup-winning team back in 1995 and makes Dunga look mellow in comparison.

During his club days, Luxemburgo's teams committed relatively few fouls but it seems that the leopard has changed its spots. Interestingly, statistics show that Mario Zagallo's Portuguesa are now one of the cleanest clubs in the country.

Sadly, Carlos Gamarra, one of the few defenders in Brazil who is capable of winning the ball cleanly, has departed the country, leaving Corinthians for Atletico Madrid. In any case, Gamarra, who went through the entire World Cup without committing a foul, is Paraguayan.

He is without doubt the major loss from the championship, while the big gain is Faustino Asprilla, who has joined Palmeiras. Big Phil's men, however, are not likely to make the competition their priority, because they have their eyes on the World Club Cup match against Manchester United. This is taken much more seriously in South America than in Europe, so much so that last year Vasco da Gama fielded reserve teams in several Brazilian championship matches and arrived in Japan two weeks before their game with Real Madrid to acclimatise.

As usual the championship will be squeezed into five months, the first half of the year being taken up by the awful state competitions. For the first time, the format is the same as the year before. The 22 teams will play each other once and the top eight then qualify for the knockout stage. As last year, ties from the quarter-finals onwards will be played over three matches, not two.

Vasco, Santos, Sao Paulo, Corinthians, Palmeiras and Cruzeiro start as the favourites. The Brazilian championship, though, is one of the most open in the world and teams such as Sport Recife, Gremio, Internacional and Vitoria can all be counted on to spring surprises. For the first time in over a decade, the capital Brasilia will be represented, Gama having been promoted last year.

The only difference concerns relegation, which, inspired by the Argentinian and Mexican models, will be decided on a points average obtained over the last two Brazilian championships. It is not impossible for a team to finish the first stage in the top eight and for their average points over two seasons to be the worst in the competition.

This opens up the intriguing possibility of a team qualifying for the quarter-finals – and even going on to win the title – while being relegated at the same time, as has happened a couple of times in Mexico.

How would Ricardo Teixeira wriggle out of that one?

URUGUAY

All games on neutral grounds

NO CLUBS will play games on their home ground during the First Division closing tournament. The decision was reached after the Tenfield organisation, which pays to televise the matches, said it did not want to show games played on poor pitches because of the bad TV images they would create.

Six pitches are not up to standard and so that the other clubs do not get an unfair advantage by being able to play at home, it was decided that all games will be staged on neutral grounds.

Tenfield, headed by Pablo Casals (with former internationals Enzo Francescoli and Nelson Gutierrez as partners), virtually runs Uruguayan soccer since it represents most leading players and has given loans to most clubs. It is paying £34million for TV rights to the championship over 10 years.

Opening championship winners Nacional surprisingly lost 3-2 to modest Huracan Buceo in the first round of games, while Penarol stole a march on their eternal rivals with a 4-0 victory over Rentistas. Penarol's new coach, Julio Ribas, has made changes for the better in the name of attacking football. Among those providing it are Carlos Alberto Aguilera, the dynamic Antonio Pacheco and veteran playmaker Pablo Bengoechea. The team are being tipped to finish top and go into the play-off with Nacional for the season's title.

Eric Weil

BOLIVIA

Kids could provide a solution

EVEN before the national team's early elimination from this year's Copa America, coach Hector Veira had complained about Bolivian football's poor organisation, bad pitches and lack of infrastructure – especially in junior team policy – as well as the jealousy between regions (which creates selection problems).

Even the leading clubs are poor and do not look after their junior teams. By far the best juniors come from Academia Tahuichi, in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, which has won many tournaments around the world and supplied eight players to the national squad in the recent Copa.

Tahuichi has numerous youth teams in various age groups and provides about a dozen a year to professional clubs. The academy has just signed a three-year deal with the US Major League which gives the Americans exclusive rights to select three players a year for clubs. This will provide much-needed cash for Tahuichi, but whether it is a good thing for Bolivian soccer remains to be seen.

The Strongest of La Paz, the oldest club in the national league, are in serious financial difficulties. They have now thrown out their 23 professionals, who had gone on strike and refused to play in a friendly. The club had just signed former Argentina striker Mario Kempes as coach, having told him that they would sign 15 new players in time for the closing championship. However, the existing squad had not been paid for two months.

Eric Weil

IN BRIEF

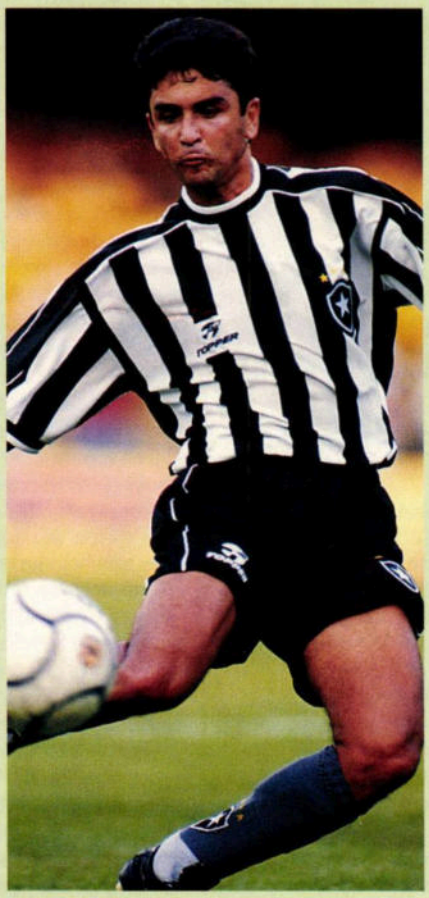
Maradona misses Francescoli farewell

DIEGO MARADONA's main activity these days is appearing on TV shows – his young daughters also regularly star in a children's programme – but, at 38, he is still dreaming of playing soccer again. However, he is well overweight and apparently unable to kick his drug habit, so he must know that he would be a sorry sight on a soccer field.

The Argentinian was invited to play in a benefit match – his announced presence swelled the gate – but though he turned up, he did not play. Then he contacted his old club Boca Juniors to say that he wanted to play for them in the Libertadores Cup this season. The club did not feel it worthwhile answering.

Maradona also was invited to play in Enzo Francescoli's farewell match, but nobody believed he would do so. The game drew 60,000 fans to River Plate stadium, where the Uruguayan put up some of his best performances in a 17-year professional career during which he played for clubs in his home country, Argentina, Italy and France, as well as the Uruguayan national team. In total, Francescoli played in 664 official matches, scoring 259 goals and winning 12 titles.

In the farewell game, Francescoli played for River Plate, scoring twice from penalties and showing that he may have retired too soon. His side beat Penarol (the Uruguayan team of which he has always been a fan) 4-0.



Mexico millionaire...Bebeto

Bebeto moves

BRAZILIAN international Bebeto, 36, has gone from Botafogo to Toros Neza of Mexico on a two-year contract worth a reported £1million a year. Another striker, Esteban Fuertes, 26, was due to be transferred from Colon Santa Fe of Argentina to Derby County for £2m.

Others on the move include Brazilian defender Cesar (Augusto Belli Michelon), who left Portuguesa for Paris Saint-Germain for £3.2m; Eduardo Berizzo, an Argentinian international defender, bought from River Plate for £2.2m by Marseille; and Pablo Contreras, the Chile defender, now at Monaco from Colo Colo.

Big money for the Big Five

THE second edition of the Mercosur Cup – a super league for leading clubs of the five countries belonging to the Mercosur common market – got under way with the same 20 clubs as last year. But the organiser, CONMEBOL, has warned that it will not invite clubs for future tournaments if they field weak teams, as was frequently the case last year.

The confederation was urged to act by the sponsoring TV companies, Argentina's Torneos y Competencias and Brazil's Traffic, who have every right to expect strong teams in what is probably the richest tournament in the world.

In the first round the clubs take £135,000 for each of their three home games. In the two-leg quarter-finals – between the five group winners and the three second-placed teams with the best records – £265,000 goes to the home team, with £400,000 in the semi-finals. The Final earns each team £670,000, with £2m going to the winner. This means that the champions will take nearly £4m overall.

First-round games continue until October 7 in the following groups:

A: River Plate and Racing Club (Argentina), Palmeiras and Cruzeiro (Brazil).

B: Corinthians and Gremio (Brazil), Velez Sarsfield and Independiente (Argentina).

C: Boca Juniors and San Lorenzo (Argentina), Universidad Catolica (Chile), Sao Paulo (Brazil).

D: Nacional and Penarol (Uruguay), Cerro Porteno (Paraguay), Vasco da Gama (Brazil).

E: Universidad de Chile and Colo Colo (Chile), Flamengo (Brazil), Olimpia (Paraguay).

The quarter-finals are scheduled for October 20 and 27, semi-finals for November 10 and 24, and Final for December 1 and 8, with matches for third place on the same dates.

Martha on the whistle

SOUTH AMERICA is to have its first woman referee, 31-year-old Martha Liliana Torre, who will take charge of some First Division games in Colombia.

Eric Weil

Looking for the next level

Paul Gardner reports on a major change in Major League Soccer

THE LEVEL of play in Major League Soccer continues to be a source of concern to everyone – everyone, that is, except the bosses who run MLS. They are a little worried, mind you, but not about what happens on the field.

They feel that things have gone a bit flat. Attendances and TV ratings are stagnating. Things are not what they should be.

Listen to Stuart Subotnick, owner of the New York/New Jersey MetroStars and chairman of the MLS board of governors: "One area where we have not moved as positively as we would like starts with the fans. If you want a successful business, you need to get the loyalty of the customer, in this case the fan. We started with a bang, it levelled off, and we're creeping up again. That's OK if you want a middling business. We don't."

Subotnick was speaking at a bizarre, almost irrational, press conference hurriedly organised by MLS in midtown Manhattan. The reason for the gathering was not stated, but everyone attending knew anyway – Doug Logan, MLS commissioner since its start in 1996, was to be replaced.

Which made it decidedly odd that, up there on the dais, one of the name cards read 'Doug Logan'. A sick joke? Not really – Logan walked in to announce that he had been fired, but had been graciously allowed to resign, that he had done his best and had no regrets. He left to applause.

Enter Subotnick, accompanied by Don Garber, the new commissioner. Don who? Exactly. A name totally unknown to anyone in soccer. A thoroughly non-soccer person. Just as Logan had been three years ago. Garber, though, comes with the sort of credentials that owners like.

To start with, we were told that he had left a highly important job at American football's NFL, which is generally regarded with awe as the be-all and end-all of smooth-operating, money-making pro sports leagues.

'No amount of marketing is going to bring the fans back to Giants stadium'

Even better, guess what Garber had been doing at the NFL? Why, he was in charge of NFL International – selling the game to Europeans, Mexicans and Japanese. How's that for what is called 'a fit' in business circles? Selling a new (nobody actually used the word foreign, but it must have hovered on many a tongue) sport to the masses – exactly what he will be required to do in the United States.

Or sort of. Garber acknowledged the differences. Next to nobody plays American football in Europe, whereas there are millions of soccer players in the USA, which should make things easier.

Articulately and confidently, Garber answered questions and managed to create a good impression while saying very little that meant anything. There was nothing new; there was quite a lot that gave a depressing sense of deja vu.

When grilled about his lack of soccer knowledge, Garber – backed up by Subotnick – dismissed the criticism as irrelevant. There were plenty of soccer experts to handle that sort of stuff, he said. What was needed now was an emphasis on marketing and public relations. "This League needs more than just someone who can come in and speak to soccer issues," Garber said. "It needs someone who can speak to business issues in the sport, and someone who can figure out ways to take this game to the next level."

Subotnick asserted that "we're not doing a good job of promoting the players". He drew attention to the recent Confederations Cup, in which the USA had beaten Germany 2-0, and had finished in third place. "Most of the players on coach Bruce Arena's team are MLS players," he said. "That's an MLS success."

At which point, the Garber-Subotnick show started to go alarmingly out of focus. Subotnick began to talk of the need to "create" heroes, while Garber made a distinction between "core fans" and the wider American sporting public: "We need to look at treating the current fans with the utmost respect…while trying to figure out ways to market this game to a growing fan base."

There is, of course, a fairly straightforward way of creating heroes and broadening the fan base – by upping the level of play and the calibre of the players. An approach that never got a look-in. The answer is to be marketing. "We're gonna do some innovative, creative things," said Subotnick, "that's Garber's reputation."

Memories must be absurdly short at MLS. It's only two years ago that they spent a small fortune on a series of television commercials featuring selected players whom they adorned with silly nicknames. It was not a success. As for the need to sell the game to a wider audience than Garber's "core" fans – this is the most dangerous illusion. It implies that there are not enough true soccer fans to support a league, that MLS must create not only heroes, but new fans as well.

There are assuredly enough fans. The problem is that MLS is not giving them what they want, so they are staying home. MetroStars, as the worst, and the worst-managed, team in the League (Subotnick's team, as it happens), inevitably provide a shining example of this negative trend.

They played their first home game at Giants stadium in April 1996, and drew a crowd of 46,826. These were fans coming to support a team they had never seen before, and consisting mostly of players they did not know. Nobody had to 'create' these fans. They were already there, waiting for the day when they could welcome pro soccer back to the metropolitan area.

Decommissioned...Doug Logan

The current average MetroStars attendance is around 10,000 – and no elaborate explanation for the drop-off is necessary. The team have been consistently lousy, have never got beyond the first round of the play-offs, and rarely have been worth watching. MetroStars have managed to turn off the majority of those who should be their supporters.

No amount of marketing cleverness, no synthetic manufacture of heroes, is going to bring those fans back to Giants stadium. They are looking for quality soccer, and have been offered something that does not measure up.

To claim the allegiance of these fans should be Garber's first priority. To do it, he must find ways of upgrading the level of play. But is any of that likely to happen when he and his boss Subotnick are loudly explaining that he doesn't know, or need to know, anything about soccer, and his marketing expertise is what is going to lead MLS to "the next level" – the unspoken assumption being that it will be a higher level? It may not be.

Confident of a solution...Peter Velappan

World Cup threat remains

Asia to vote on boycott call

A SPECIAL congress of 45 Asian soccer nations will be held in Kuala Lumpur on October 10 in an effort to resolve the problems over the 2002 World Cup. Peter Velappan, chief executive of the Asian confederation, has confirmed that Japan and South Korea remain as hosts, and expressed his optimism that the impasse will be resolved.

The meeting will decide whether to accept the recommendation of the AFC executive committee to boycott the event because of the dispute over the number of places available to Asian countries.

"AFC has its own image and its own dignity," Velappan said. "We don't want to be put on the back seat when we should be in the driving seat. We will take all these matters into consideration and whatever decision the congress takes will be for the good of Asian football.

"We are exploring everything possible, in co-operation with FIFA members. We are not up in arms with anybody."

Meanwhile, the Malaysia FA (FAM) council meeting called for the row to be resolved amicably, and unanimously agreed not to support the AFC move. FAM deputy president Tengku Abdullah said: "We agree that Asia deserves five berths but we are confident that that can be obtained without threat of boycott."

FAM president Sultan Ahmad Shah, who is also AFC president, assured the council that the AFC would not adopt a policy of confrontation with FIFA.

"Our request for one more place is fair and as such both FIFA and AFC are looking into ways to find a solution," he said.

The sultan declined to disclose contents of a recent letter he received from FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

Azam Mahmood

JAPAN

The Aad work starts here

URAWA REDS have turned to former Ajax manager Aad De Mos to turn their fortunes around after finishing the J.League first stage only one point above the relegation zone.

He has been signed on a six-month contract, "to rebuild our team quickly," according to club president Shigeru Nakagawa.

De Mos started smartly enough. His first game in charge was a 2-0 home win against Kashima Antlers in the League Cup quarter-final first leg.

Reds produced an uncharacteristically defensive and well-organised performance, scoring twice against the run of play. De Mos, however, feels that the work has only begun.

His team has suffered one huge loss, but had three useful additions. The loss is Japan's super teenager Shinji Ono, whose ligament injury in the Olympic qualifiers looks likely to keep him out of the entire Second Stage.

The gains are three other players with national team experience: World Cup striker Masayuki Okano has returned, having spent the first stage training with Ajax in Holland, while defenders Tadashi Nakamura and Ryuji Michiki have also come on board.

Challenge...Aad De Mos

Nakamura is the new sweeper and looks very much the part. "You'll understand, though," says De Mos, "that if Ono were playing, we could play another type of football."

De Mos won league titles with Ajax (1982 and 1983), Mechelen (1989) and Anderlecht (1991), and led Mechelen to the European Cup-winners Cup in 1988, beating Ajax in the Final.

His travels since then have taken him to PSV Eindhoven, Werder Bremen, Standard Liege and Sporting Gijon, and he is still only 52.

However, for a manager used to having the likes of Cruyff, Koeman and Ronaldo in his charge, Reds could be the biggest challenge yet.

His predecessor, Hiromi Hara, took over from Horst Koeppel at the start of 1998 and led Reds to sixth place in the first stage and third in the second.

It was beginning to look as if the J.League's noisiest fans were finally getting the team they deserved, especially with the signing of Ono last year.

This season, however, the traffic has been all the other way, culminating in a catastrophic 8-1 defeat by Nagoya Grampus Eight in the closing match of the first stage.

Mike Plastow & Michi Ishijima

ROUND-UP

Jordan's win gives Saudis major boost

SAUDI ARABIA made heavy weather of securing their passage to the final Asian qualifying round for the Olympic tournament in 2000. And they were greatly assisted when Jordan beat their closest challengers, Iraq, 5-0. This result left Saudi needing a point at most in their final game, against Iraq, which ended 2-2.

Saudi Arabia and Iraq both defeated Jordan in Amman in the first two games of the round-robin qualifying group, then drew 1-1 with each other before Saudi went on to beat the Jordanians again, this time 2-0.

Qatar's Dutch manager, Jo Bonfrere, named a squad of 22 for a training camp in Holland two months before his side play in the final Asian qualifying round for the Olympics.

Qatar are in Group A with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait; Group B comprises South Korea, China and Bahrain; Thailand, Kazakhstan and Japan contest Group C. The three group winners qualify for Sydney.

UAE: The national team beat Ujpest 2-1 and Ferencvaros 2-0 during a three-week training camp in Hungary. The games were part of the team's preparations for the forthcoming Pan-Arab Games in Jordan.

UAE, coached by Portuguese Carlos Manuel Queiroz, will participate in these games for the first time in 12 years. The Emirates have tended to send their Olympic squad to this tournament.

LEBANON: Al-Ansar defeated Syria's Al-Wahda 1-0 to win the Beqaa Invitational Tournament for the third time in a row. A 41st-minute goal by newcomer Fadi Ghosn was enough for the Lebanese League and Cup winners to claim the trophy.

SYRIA: The federation has sacked national coach Moussa Shammas following a series of poor displays, and appointed Yugoslav Dragoslav Popovic as its new supremo.

Popovic, former coach of

On the move...Brazil are off to play in the Banghabandhu Cup

Radnicki Nis and Trabzonspor, is under contract until 2001, with his first test being the Pan-Arab Games.

The federation's decision brings to an end the 14-year run of Russian and Romanian supremacy in the national team's technical staff.

Meanwhile, champions Al-Jaish have appointed 51-year-old Romanian loan Dimitriu as coach, following the sacking of Brazilian Paulo Kamarco.

KUWAIT: Thirteen clubs from Asia and Africa will compete in this year's Arab Cup-winners Cup, with the finals to be hosted by Al-Qadsia of Kuwait. The first round features four groups, with the winners joining Al-Qadsia in a final round-robin group of five, in early November.

Mohamed Chbaro

Brazil to visit Bangladesh

THE Brazilian national squad will compete in the Banghabandhu Cup in Dhaka, **BANGLADESH**.

Brazil, India, the host nation and nine others will take part in the tournament, to be played between August 25 and September 7.

In **INDIA**, around 170 fans were injured when part of the galleries collapsed during a match at Calcutta's Mohammedan Sporting Club ground.

The national team, without a coach for eight months, paid the penalty when losing to Thailand in the Olympic qualifying tournament.

India were beaten 2-0 in Bangkok and drew 0-0 in Calcutta, after wasting a string of chances. The victory put Thailand into the next stage as group winners, Singapore, Laos and Vietnam all having withdrawn for various reasons.

G C Das & Bhasi Malaparamba

BANGLADESH: Under a new format, designed to curb match-fixing, the top four finishers in the first leg of the 10-team Premier Division – Mohammedan SC, defending champions Muktijoddah KC, Abahani KC and Arambagh KS – will play in a Super Four.

Mohammedan SC, from Dhaka, won the Premier Division with 25 points. Mediocre Arambagh were the surprise entrants in the Super Four after a comfortable 2-0 win over Brothers Union.

SOUTH KOREA: Samsung collected 22 points from 10 matches to lead the K-League, followed closely by Chunnam Dragons with 19 points

Azam Mahmood

NEW ZEALAND: The exploits of eccentric goalkeeper Michael Utting dominated coverage of the Confederations Cup.

Utting played superbly against the USA and Brazil but was dropped from the All Whites' game with Germany for breaking a team curfew.

AUSTRALIA: In what served more as a rally for Manchester United's legion of Australasian fans, the European champions won both games against the national side, 2-0 in Melbourne and 1-0 in Sydney. More than 138,000 fans watched the encounters.

Paul Moon

CROSSWORD

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CLUES ACROSS

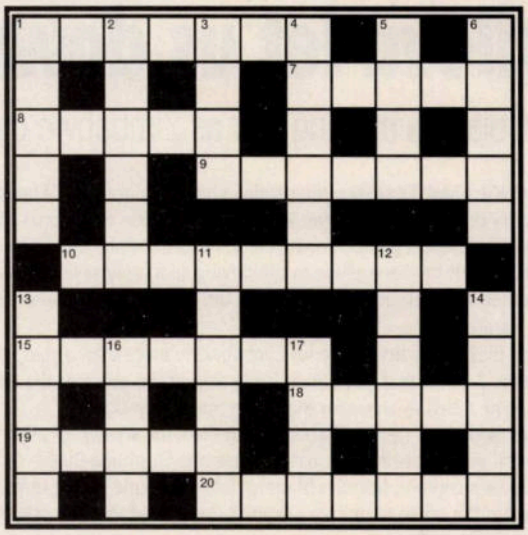
1.....Boavista midfielder recruited by Artur Jorge to PSV (7)
7.....Young Kaiserslautern midfield man first in the German squad last year (5)
8.....City in which Delle Alpi is sited (5)
9.....Ex-Standard Liege coach at Lierse before Meeus arrived (7)
10...22-year-old Bari forward earmarked by Juve at a cost of £7m (9)
15...Macedonian midfield player in Germany with Hansa Rostock (7)
18...Former Schalke central defender in Bayern's squad (5)
19...English full-back who joined West Ham from Benfica (5)
20...Playmaker in Lokomotiv Moscow's 1998-99 UEFA Cup run (7)

CLUES DOWN

1.....England midfielder back at Leeds via Blackburn and Newcastle (5)
2.....Home city of Albanian League champions SK (6)
3.....Brondby and Denmark striker recently snapped up by Schalke (4)
4.....Independiente defender who went to Racing Santander in 1998 (6)
5.....One-time Ferguson assistant hoping to restore Blackburn's fortunes (4)
6.....Beaten finalists at the 1999 Women's World Cup tournament (5)
11...Argentine forward who tried his luck in France with Nantes (6)
12...Bayern Munich and Germany midfielder once at Karlsruhe (6)
13...Strasbourg-born Cameroon midfield man of Cannes and Bastia fame (5)
14...Recently-retired Rangers and Sweden star debilitated by knee injuries (5)
16...Coach who presided at Alaves in Spain last season (4)
17...Ex-Steaua forward of Valencia and Romania (4)

SUMMER WINNERS

1st prize: Donald Nairn, Aberdeenshire.
5 runners-up: Tim Ter Horst, London; Bill Thackray, Croydon; Peter Bale, Yorkshire; Jerden Ritsema, Holland; Anthony M Gaydos, New Jersey, USA.



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Carrying the can...Peter Ndlovu failed to show for vital game

'Ndlovu let us down'

Coach blames missing star as Zimbabwe crash

BIRMINGHAM CITY striker Peter Ndlovu has been accused of letting his country down after Zimbabwe lost 2-0 to Senegal in the special play-off group for the last place at next year's African Nations Cup finals.

The defeat left the Senegalese in the driving seat, only seven days after Ndlovu turned in a brilliant performance in the first meeting between the teams in Harare.

He was playing his first game for Zimbabwe in more than a year, but scored in the 2-1 win that gave them leadership of the group at the halfway mark. Then he failed to arrive for the return meeting in Dakar.

"He let us down," said Zimbabwe coach Clemens Westerhof after Senegal won with goals from Moussa Ndiaye and Ousmane Diop.

Zimbabwe's captain, Norman Mapeza, laid the blame on the referee, who awarded the home team two penalties, but added that the side had lacked firepower up front

In the Harare game, Ndlovu had put Zimbabwe ahead after eight minutes, with Agent Sawu adding a second after 55 minutes. Omar Traore's last-minute consolation for Senegal could turn out to be vital if the group is settled on goal difference.

In Dakar, the tables were turned with Monaco's Ndiaye scoring first and Diop netting from the spot late in the game after Traore was tripped. Ndiaye then missed a second penalty – which could prove decisive, too.

Senegal and Zimbabwe both have six points from three matches and one game to go, both against Eritrea, the obvious whipping boys in the group.

Mark Gleeson

COSAFA CASTLE CUP

Zambia stay focused on third title

ZAMBIA remain on course for a third Cosafa Castle Cup title, but had to sweat through their quarter-final against Mozambique before reaching the last four.

Zambia, who have not lost a competitive game at home for almost 17 years, had to come from a goal down to force Mozambique into a penalty shoot-out.

They now play Angola, while Namibia take on Swaziland in the other semi-final. Both Namibia and Swaziland caused major upsets with wins over South Africa and Zimbabwe respectively, also on penalties.

In the game against Mozambique, Zambia goalkeeper Davies Phiri dropped a cross into his own goal, but David Siame equalised after 71 minutes. Phiri then saved two penalties in the shoot-out, which Zambia won 4-3.

Namibia keeper Fillemon Kanalelo was his team's hero in their win over South Africa. He pulled off some brilliant saves in the 1-1 draw in Windhoek and saved twice in the shoot-out, which his team won 4-1. It was the second year in a row that Namibia had beaten their powerful neighbours in the tournament.

Swaziland also needed penalties to beat Zimbabwe at home after a controversial game. Kaitano Tembo put Zimbabwe ahead on the hour, but Swaziland won a last-minute reprieve with a dubious penalty which Bongani Mdluli converted. Swaziland won the shoot-out 4-3 after Tembo and Maxwell Dube missed their kicks.

The semi-finals will be single games but the Final is over two legs.

Mark Gleeson

ALL-AFRICA GAMES

Ivory Coast pull off double surprise

SOUTH AFRICA's Under-23 team will open the soccer tournament at the All-Africa Games in Johannesburg against Algeria. The hosts also have been drawn with Uganda and Mali in Group 1. Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Mauritius and Zambia play in Group 2.

The matches will be played at the Orlando stadium and Rand stadium, with the final at the Johannesburg stadium on September 19.

The big upset was the failure of both Ghana and Nigeria, traditional powerhouses in junior football, to qualify. They both lost to Ivory Coast in a qualifying tournament in Abidjan.

Egypt, gold medallists at the last All-Africa Games in Harare four years ago, were also beaten in the qualifiers.

Mark Gleeson

EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP

B for Best in Rwanda

HOSTS Rwanda won the East and Central African Senior Challenge Cup, but not with their first team. It was the B side that won the event, beating Kenya 3-1 in the Final in Kigali.

The 12-nation tournament, the oldest pan-African event, was held for the 23rd time after a two-year gap because of financial difficulties.

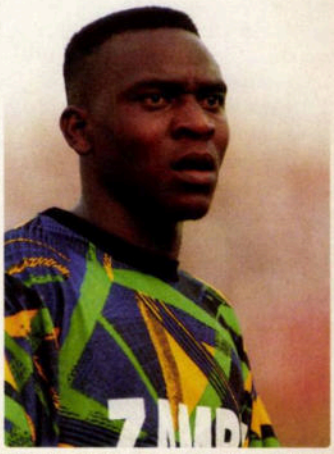
Kenya, seeking to win their first title in 19 years, went into the game as firm favourites after keeping a clean sheet in their four previous matches. One of these was a 1-0 defeat of Rwanda B, who made the quarter-finals only on the toss of a coin after finishing equal with Eritrea in their group. But they came good with wins over Ethiopia and Burundi in the knockout phase.

Rwanda's first-choice side finished third, beating Burundi on penalties after a 0-0 draw.

The tournament generated much controversy. Eritrea keeper Araya Burhani received a one-year ban for assaulting Rwandese referee Gene Dibe in the game against Kenya, Ethiopia walked out after the wrong anthem was played before their match against Rwanda B, and Ugandan referee Yusuf Arye was banned for two years for his poor officiating.

Tanzania have offered to host the next tournament in 2001.

Mark Gleeson


Villain then hero...Davies Phiri

Shake-up at the top

THERE has been a remarkable managerial roundabout involving **SOUTH AFRICA**'s three top clubs.

Ted Dumitru, the Romania-born coach of champions Mamelodi Sundowns, quit just before the new season, claiming interference in team selection by the directors. Within days he joined Orlando Pirates, who had sacked Russian coach Viktor Bondarenko despite his taking them to victory in the pre-season Charity Spectacular and in a four-team tournament.

Dumitru's replacement at Sundowns is Paul Dolezar, the Yugoslavia-born coach of Kaizer Chiefs, who finished second to Sundowns last season.

Chiefs refused to renew Dolezar's contract and have instead hired a Turk, Mushin Ertugal, who was Zaire coach at the 1996 African Nations Cup finals in South Africa but quit after their first game.

Former **ZAMBIA** international Linos Makwaza has been named as the new coach of Power Dynamos, who fired Guston Mutobo after a string of poor results.

Nkana FC have a nine-point lead in the Zambian championship with 10 games to go, and are well placed to win a 10th title.

In **ANGOLA**, Primeiro Agosto went top of the table by beating Petro 1-0 in the Luanda derby. Moises II scored the goal in the last minute.

Harare club Dynamos have strengthened their team for the African Champions League by signing **ZIMBABWE** internationals Kingstone Rinhemota and Ronald Sibanda.

CENTRAL AFRICA

SABLE BATIE have kept up their improbable march on the **CAMEROON** title and now have a four-point lead over Racing Bafoussam.

EAST AFRICA

MAURITIAN international midfielder Jean-Sebastien Bax has joined Saint-Louisienne on the neighbouring island of **REUNION**, in time for their African Champions League campaign. He moves from Scouts Club on a six-month renewable contract.

Saint-Pierroise remain leaders in the Reunion championship, two points ahead of Stade Tamponnaise.

The **TANZANIA** Mainland League is headed by Mtibwa, with 49 points from 25 games, one more than favourites Simba, who have a game in hand. The top three join three teams from Zanzibar later in the year for the Union Super League, which will determine the national champions.

NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT's 5-1 defeat by Saudi Arabia in the Confederations Cup in Mexico cost the jobs of coach Mahmoud Al-Gohari and FA president Samir Zaher. The defeat caused the death of two fans at home, from high blood pressure, and drew criticism from President Mubarak.

Raja Casablanca have won a fourth successive title in **MOROCCO**, finishing four points ahead of Kawkab Marrakesh. City rivals Wydad won the Moroccan Cup, beating Royal Armed Forces 2-1 in the Final.

Former African Footballer of the Year Badou Ezaki has left his coaching post at Sporting Sale to take up a post at Wydad, where he used to play. Adelilah Fahmi, who captained Raja Casablanca to the African Champions League title two years ago, has been signed by French club Lille, where he joins his former coach Valid Halilhodzic.

The **ALGERIA** Cup has been won by USM Alger, with veterans Billel Dziri and Hadj Adlane scoring in their 2-0 win over JS Kabylie.

Rabah Madjer has agreed to coach the Algerian national side for a second time. Madjer, a former European Cup winner with FC Porto and ex-African Footballer of the Year, had been working in Qatar.

WEST AFRICA

NATIONS CUP co-hosts **GHANA** have announced a series of warm-up friendlies before next year's tournament, including matches against Jamaica, Nigeria, Argentina, Germany and Burkina Faso.

Hearts of Oak midfielder Yaw Sekyi, 21, has signed a two-year contract with Club Brugge in Belgium.

Former African Footballer of the Year Abdul Razak has been appointed coach of Dragons l'Oueme in **BENIN**.

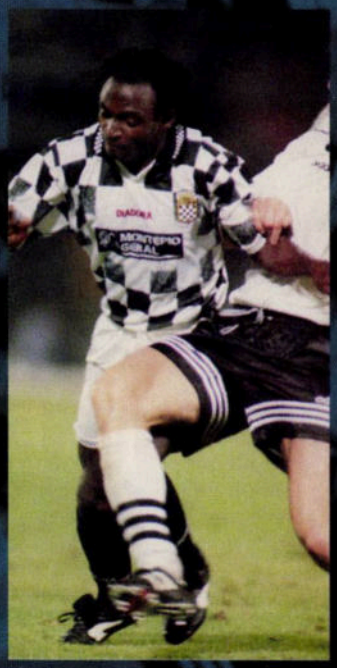
In the **IVORY COAST**, ex-Nigeria coach Ganiyu Salami has been sacked by Stade Abidjan.

Amarante are the champions of the **CAPE VERDE ISLANDS** for the first time in their 38-year history, winning the Final 3-1 over two legs against Vulcanicos.

Mark Gleeson

Pro-file Kwame Ayew

Portugal just right for Pele's brother



LIVING in the shadow of a brother who is arguably the most successful African footballer of all time cannot be easy.

Abedi Pele won the African Footballer of the Year trophy a record three times and was a European Cup winner with Marseille in France. Kwame Ayew has long been in the shadow of his illustrious sibling and sometimes is accused of hanging on to his coat-tails.

Certainly there was much tension in the Ghana team some years ago when Abedi was alleged to have engineered a place for his brother, to the chagrin of rival Tony Yeboah.

Now, however, there can be no doubt that Ayew is establishing a reputation of his own. He is starting the new season in Portugal with Sporting Lisbon after having had a splendid season with Boavista, the 'other' club from Oporto, scoring 14 goals as they won a Champions League place for the first time. In all he scored 30 goals in two seasons at Boavista.

Portugal has been good to Ayew. He moved there from Italy midway through the 1995-96 season and the Sportinguista are his fourth club in five seasons. His spell at Uniao Leiria, who have developed a habit of signing Ghanaians, did not prove as successful as the stints that followed at Vitoria Setubal and Boavista.

Ayew was in Ghana's bronze-medal winning squad at the 1992 Olympics, after which he joined Metz, but was only part of the reserve and junior teams. He then went off to Qatar, to Al Ahli, gaining useful experience, and did well enough to win a contract with Lecce in Italy. A goal on his debut in Serie A looked a good omen, but Lecce spent most of the season on the back foot, so defence, rather than attack, was a priority. Ayew went down to Serie B with the club, but soon moved to Portugal.

His full international debut for Ghana came shortly after the Barcelona Olympics, but was a disaster. The Black Stars were beaten by tiny Burundi in a World Cup qualifier in Bujumbura and did not get past the first round, although Ayew played in all four matches and scored his first goal, against Algeria.

Ayew played in the 1996 African Nations Cup finals in South Africa and will be hoping for a call from new national coach Guiseppe Dossena, who has preferred the front-line pairing of Yaw Preko and Peter Ofori-Quaye so far.

If Ayew continues his form this season in the spotlight at Sporting, then he is likely to reclaim his place in time for the African Nations Cup finals early next year.

Mark Gleeson

Fact file

Club Sporting Lisbon (Por)
Country Ghana
Born December 28, 1973
Previous clubs Eleven Wise, Metz (Fra), Al Ahli (Qat), Lecce (Ita), Uniao Leiria (Por), Vitoria Setubal (Por), Boavista (Por)
International debut October 1992, v Burundi
International caps 14 (3 gls)
Honours Olympic Games bronze medal 1992

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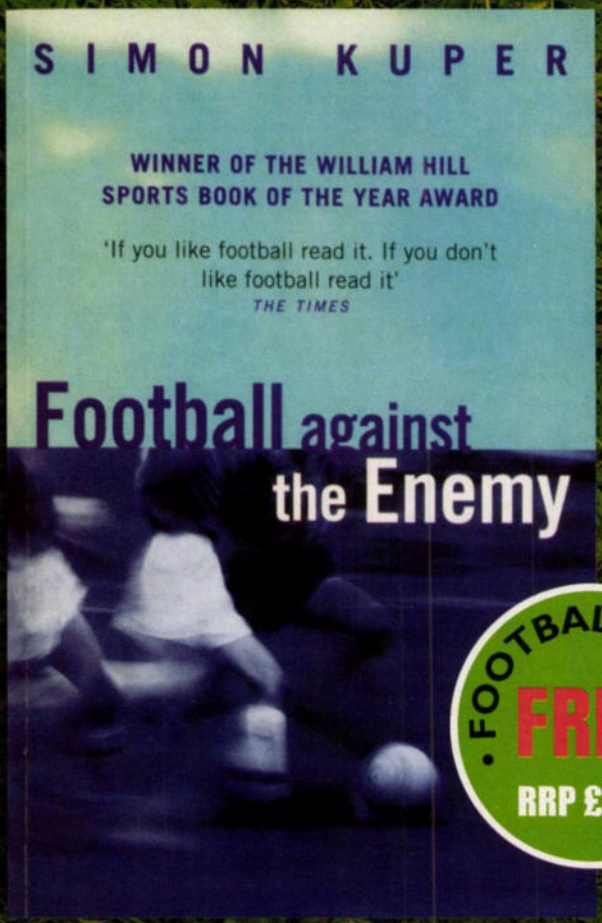

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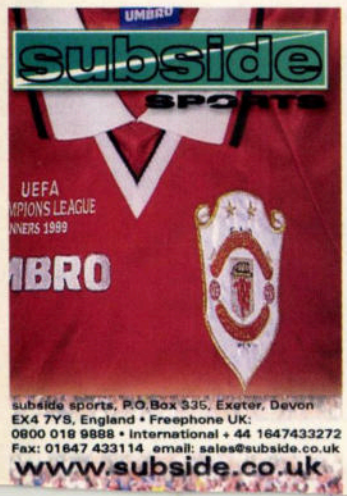

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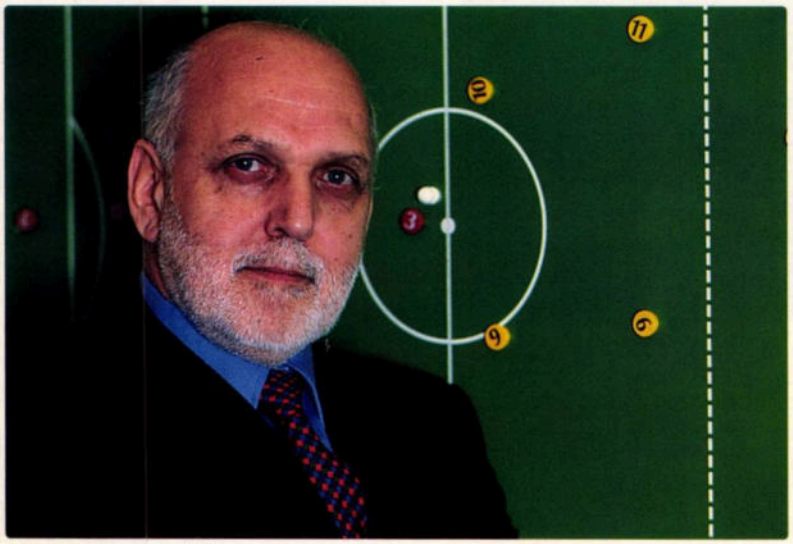
'Is Thompson totally naive, utterly unaware of the realities of international football, or is he simply having us on?'

Thompson joins an unhappy brigade



Wrong choice...Geoff Thompson

OH, NO! PLEASE! Not another booby at Lancaster Gate, a chairman to carry on in the unhallowed tradition of Bert the Inert and Keith the Intolerable. Now, alas, there is Geoff the Ridiculous; Geoff Thompson, that is, the administrator from Sheffield who easily cruised in ahead of Ipswich's David Sheepshanks in the election for Football Association chairman.

Sheepshanks certainly would have been my preference. He is young, lively, intelligent and highly personable, as only a wealthy Old Etonian can be. True, the election manifesto he inflicted on us in the press did little more than to affirm he was in favour of motherhood and apple pie, but I felt he had the intelligence and the independence to bring fresh life and ideas to Lancaster Gate.

And Thompson? After the fiasco of the FA, the egregious, recently-departed Sports Minister Tony Banks and the shameful withdrawal of holders Manchester United from the FA Cup in order to play in the Tournament That Should Never Be, I wrote that we should know what Thompson thought about it. Now we do. Oh, boy!

It was a little unfortunate for him that his nitwitted opinions should emerge on the very day when United supremo Martin Edwards angrily denied that money had anything to do with his team's decision to quit the FA Cup. Edwards insisted that the decision had been taken solely in response to government pressure, engendered by fear of losing the 2006 World Cup.

Thompson denied that anything of the sort had been involved. All the FA was concerned about, he told us, was that United should have the chance to crown themselves as world champions. As WHAT? Is the man totally naive, utterly unaware of the realities of international football, or is he simply having us on?

This trashy little tournament, as we know, has minimal significance in 'world' terms, featuring as it does such giants as the champions of Oceania and CONCACAF.

Thompson went on to say that there was no objection to United fielding their youth team in the FA Cup, advancing the devious and unsustainable case that clubs were merely obliged to field their 'strongest team'. The implication being that if United's true team were engaged at that time in Brazil, their strongest available team was...the youth side. Unlucky again for Thompson that Edwards, concurrently, should state that United had no intention of resorting to such a stratagem.

Mercy me, it's a mess, I'm telling you, as Fats Waller used to say. Still, at least Thompson has not asked, like the delightful Keith Wiseman, for a substantial salary, nor has he tried to cut a deal with the Welsh to get himself on to a FIFA committee. Perhaps we should be thankful for small mercies, but I wish we had Sheepshanks instead, for all the banalities of his prospectus.

Poor Elliott loses again

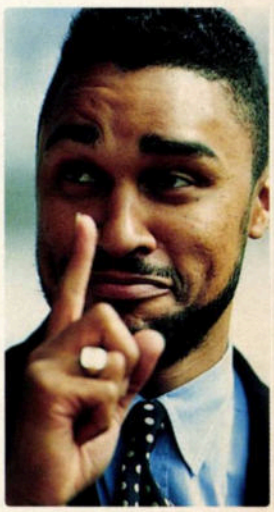
WHAT a sad little documentary *The Day That Changed My Life: Tackling The Game* proved to be.

The programme, shown on BBC2, purported to tell the tale of Chelsea's Paul Elliott, the horrific, career-ending injuries he suffered when Dean Saunders of Liverpool landed on him at Anfield in September 1992. It was not the programme's fault that the Premiership shamefully refused permission for the incident to be shown, even though it had been seen on television many times when the High Court case – in which Elliott sued Saunders for damages – was about to be held, and later.

But then to avoid any mention of the case and the disputable judgement was unforgivable. I have written at length about it; of how Mr Justice Drake brushed aside impeccable evidence from Chelsea chairman Ken Bates and found against Elliott, who went down for £500,000 in fees and costs.

These were points I stressed when interviewed for the programme, but none of it was shown. I understand the director showed my interview to the BBC lawyers. Fair enough. But as I pointed out to her, everything I said already had appeared in *World Soccer* and in my book, *Football Memories*, without ever being challenged.

Elliott emerged from the film with his customary decency and dignity, but it was a pitifully half-baked and evasive affair. He surely deserved better.



Dignified...Paul Elliott

Copa now banished to the margins

Time off...Argentina's Juan Veron sat out the Copa America

HAS the Copa America a future? The latest edition, in Paraguay, suggests it may be on its last legs. Brazil, on a hiding to nothing, duly won, but what did winning mean? In the Final they cruised home against a Uruguay team of youngsters, from whom new manager Daniel Passarella – who did not preside – hoped to take just two or three players for the full side and the ensuing qualifying tournament for the World Cup.

Those youngsters did surpass themselves, but without the likes of Poyet, Fonseca and Recoba, it was remarkable and significant that they got as far as they did. They qualified for the quarter-finals, remember, only as the second-best third-placed team from the group stage.

Uruguay won but a single match, against Ecuador in the first stage, going through merely on penalties against Paraguay and then Chile. Feats in themselves, but let us keep them in perspective.

Argentina, who left behind the likes of Batistuta, Redondo and Veron, were still good enough to give the Brazilians a hard run for their money in the quarter-final, and would have drawn had Ayala not missed a late penalty. Better I suppose than missing three, as poor Martin Palermo did, but still...

Penalty misses seemed to be the fashion in the tournament, Chile's Marcelo Salas, a major disappointment, being another of the offenders.

Brazil, by contrast, had a full complement, with only two leading players missing. One, Leonardo, walked out in a huff when he heard he was not going to be made captain, only to find, back in Italy, that Milan were ready to sell him. Quite a surprise, given the vital goals he scored for them last season.

The Copa, which began back in 1916 as the South American Championship, properly claims seniority over all other tournaments of its kind, but it has a spotty history, often going into abeyance, sometimes for as long as seven years at a time. It ridiculed itself this time round when it let in the Japanese, reportedly at a payment of £1.3million a game. Just as well perhaps that Japan were there only for the briefest of spells.

Whether we like it or not, the exodus of star South Americans to Europe, and the massive demands made on them by their European clubs, have doomed this tournament to marginality.

Brazil's victory in the Final may have reconciled their fans to Rivaldo – sent off against Mexico in the group stage, but a scorer of five goals in all – and revived Ronaldo, but it really meant very little.

World Cup mystery remains unsolved

Ill-fated...Ronaldo collides with Barthez

THE EXPERT analysis and investigation by *Placar*, the leading Brazilian football magazine, went a long way to clearing up the business of Ronaldo and the 1998 World Cup Final. But one major mystery remains: why did coach Mario Zagallo leave him on the field for the full game?

We know now that at just after 2pm on the day of the Final, Ronaldo had a convulsive fit, lasting a little under two minutes, after which he fell into a short but deep sleep. For some strange reason one of the two Brazilian team doctors, Lidio Toledo, an orthopaedic specialist, saw fit not to tell Zagallo, on the grounds that he was resting in his room. Amazingly, Zagallo did not even see Ronaldo until 8.10pm at Stade de France – some three hours after an extensive examination at the Lilas Clinic, where Toledo and Dr Joaquim de Mata had taken him. They found nothing wrong with the player.

At the stadium Ronaldo insisted that he wanted to play, so his name was restored to the starting line-up in place of Edmundo's. Neither doctor objected.

It was quickly evident, however, that Ronaldo was very far from himself. Indeed, he seemed at times to be wandering around distracted. There was a significant heavy collision with France keeper Fabien Barthez over a ball which Ronaldo usually would have left alone. Yet he stayed on.

Back in Brazil, a neurologist, Professor Alex Caetano de Barros, engaged by Ronaldo's club, Inter, to examine him in Rio, declared (despite denials by the Inter doctor) that Ronaldo had had a convulsion, and should not have played for at least 24 hours. As it was, he had risked another. Yet he stayed on the park. Why?

September 1967

ERIC BATTY offered his choice of the World's Best Eleven in the September 1967 issue of *World Soccer*, pointing out that "in future we are going to require greater skill from our defenders and a higher work-rate from our forwards".

Batty was a highly-opinionated writer who was not afraid to speak out on the issues of the day. For example, when choosing Franz Beckenbauer in midfield he wrote that "it's criminal to waste his talents as a libero".

There was a strong eastern European influence in Batty's selection, and not a single South American.

Arthur Rotmil provided an analysis of the coming season's European trophies, together with a merit table showing that Real Madrid had appeared in all 12 seasons of the European Cup, playing 79 matches – 35 more than the next highest, Benfica – winning 52 and drawing nine.

The article was illustrated by a photograph of Johan Cruyff, then so young as to be almost unrecognisable.

In another article, Rotmil pointed out that Northern Ireland and Luxembourg had the highest goal averages in the previous season's league programmes, with 4.5 and 3.65 goals per match respectively, and commented that "goals are not necessarily synonymous with quality soccer".

He also wrote about the upheaval at Inter, where nine players had been signed and six sold, including European Cup-winners Guarneri, Picchi and Jair.

None of the newcomers did much during the following season, and coach Helenio Herrera's avowed intention of rebuilding the side, using veteran Luis Suarez as a libero but only in home matches, turned out to be a failure.

Ken Ashton began a feature by writing: "Mention Everton and the mental picture that builds up immediately before the average fan is one of a big-money club writing blank cheques for some of Britain's most expensive players."

The picture illustrating the article was of Alan Ball, who had cost the club a record £100,000 from Blackpool. But the youth policy that the then manager, Harry Catterick, had instituted did eventually produce some fine discoveries.

The cover picture showed action from the previous season's FA Cup Final at Wembley, where Spurs beat Chelsea 2-1. No 10, Terry Venables, was playing against his former club; the other Tottenham player in the picture, Cyril Knowles, died at the young age of 47.

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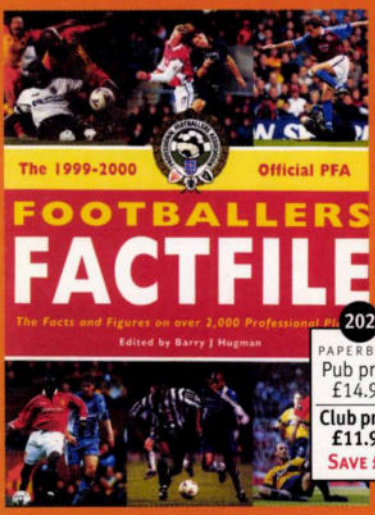

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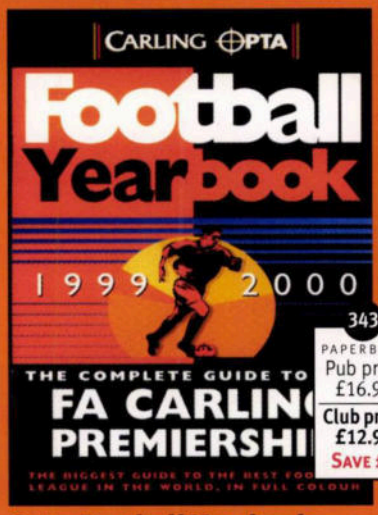

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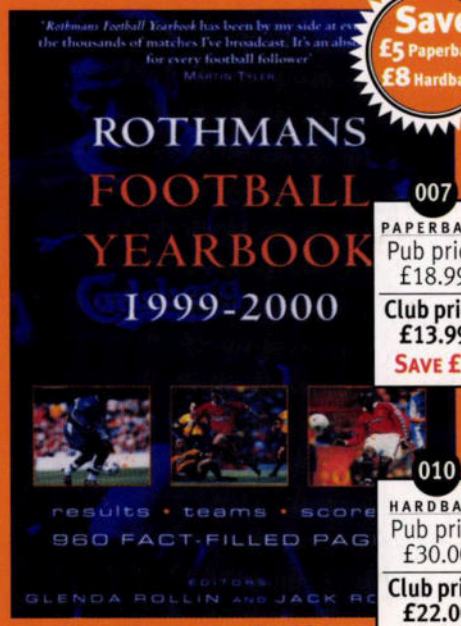

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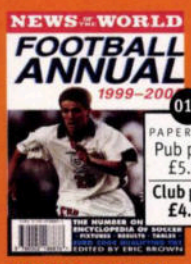

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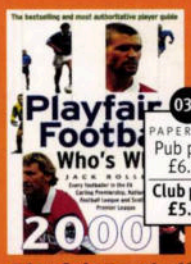

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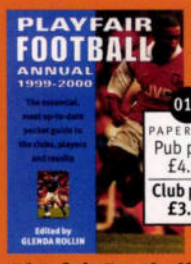

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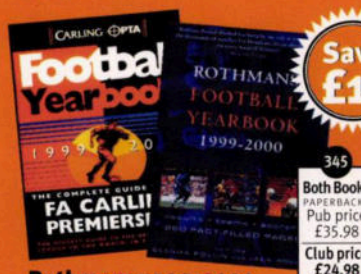

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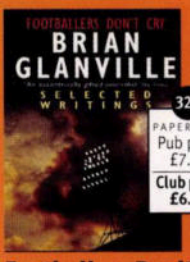

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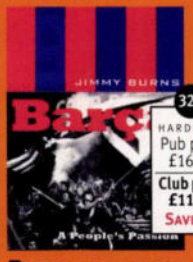

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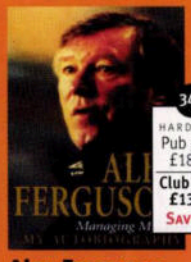

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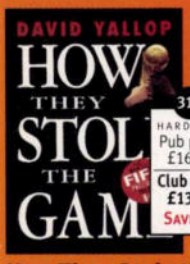

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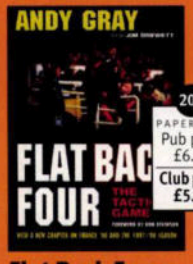

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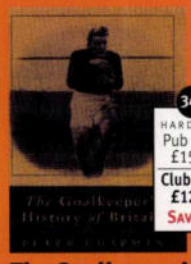

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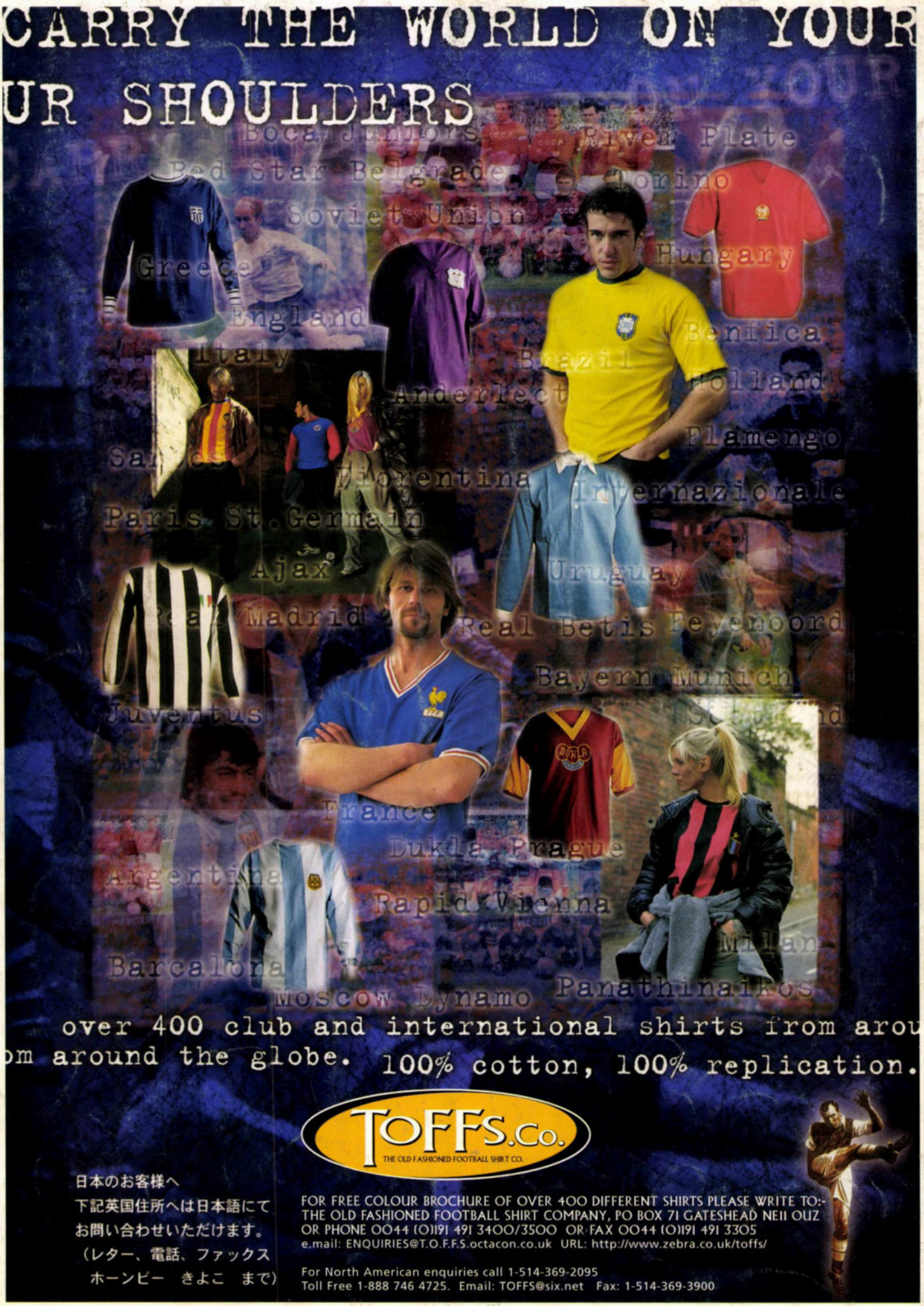
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